

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Earl loses mineral rights claim

Lord Lonsdale lost his nine-year action against the Crown in the High Court in London yesterday over oil and natural gas rights in the Irish Sea, off the Cumbria coast (Derek Barnett writes).

The earl, of Ashham Hall, Penrith, Cumbria, had sought to show that oil and gas under-neath those waters belonged to him because his great uncle bought the mineral rights in 1880.

He started the action after the Crown granted a search licence to the international oil company, Ultramar, and other companies. But in a four-hour judgment after the trial last November Mr Justice Slade ruled that the 1880 sale did not convey rights to oil or natural gas, principally because "minerals" was an indefinite term.

The judge ordered Lord Lonsdale to pay two thirds of the undiscovered costs of the Attorney General, the defendant in the case.

Disconnexions are stopped

Electricity disconnexions in England and Wales will be banned until at least January 25, Electricity Council announced last night (Par Healy writes).

The National Right to Fuel Campaign said the decision would save 2,500 homes from being cut off.

The council said electricity boards had agreed to the moratorium because of the extreme weather. Disruption of postal services in some areas had also persuaded boards that people at risk of being cut off because they had not paid their bills should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Union leaders snub SDP

Trade union leaders, including Mr David Bannett, chairman of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory, yesterday rejected advances from Mr David Owen aimed at starting a "constructive dialogue" on the policy with the Social Democratic Party (Paul Routledge writes).

They rebutted Dr Owen's argument that the TUC's close identification with the Labour Party damaged their ability to represent rank-and-file members, and reaffirmed the historic link with Labour.

Mr Bannett described the SDP as "a profoundly anti-union party". There were basic differences between them that would not be solved by "a nice chat".

Bus took 27 to police station

Police Sergeant John West, aged 30, arrested 27 rampaging skinheads during an affray in London, put them on a bus and ordered the driver to go straight to the nearest police station.

The affray was in Bromley Road, Catford last August and involved 100 skinheads and coloured youths; 45 arrests were made, it was stated at Inner London Crown Court yesterday.

Three of six youths convicted of making an affray were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. Two were sent to borstal and one was given a suspended prison sentence. Ten others were acquitted.

Newspapers win contempt appeal

The Scotsman and the Glasgow Herald, which were held in contempt during a trial in Glasgow last July of 11 men accused of conspiring to help the Ulster Volunteer Force, won appeals against the decision at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

Lord Ross, the judge at the trial, had said both papers were in contempt when they reported that a Crown witness and his wife were taken by police to a secret address after giving evidence.

BBC Scotland head

Mr James Hunter has been appointed Head of Television for BBC Scotland. Mr Hunter, aged 44, is now senior producer for television, music and arts features at BBC Scotland.

Thaw brings cold comfort after the freeze

By Staff Reporters

The slight thaw which has provided a respite from last week's severe weather conditions is not expected to save many of today's sporting fixtures. The London Weather Centre said that the thaw would continue into next week; but cold weather might return to add to the difficulties of travellers affected by the rail dispute.

A spokesman said: "It is a sobering thought that we are only half way through January. At this rate they will be playing football until August."

Yesterday freezing fog affected much of the Home Counties; but the worst areas were still Wales, where Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, called for all possible help for farmers.

He praised the resilience and courage of Welsh farmers who had made tremendous efforts to reach their stock and deliver milk. There was still the massive physical task of shifting huge amounts of snow, he said during his three-day tour of the worst hit areas of South Wales.

A dozen farmers at Lampeter, Dyfed, clubbed together to pay £160 an hour to hire a helicopter to drop fodder to starving sheep and vital generator fuel to isolated farms. On one farm sheep ate the paper sacks as well as the fodder.

Some country roads in South Wales will stay blocked until next week. Regular troops and Territorials have been using heavy digging equipment to clear streets in the valley towns.

The Welsh Office has set up an emergency operation using Army lorries to carry urgently needed salt from Cheshire into South Wales, where stocks have run low after a week of continuous road gridding. Powys County Council has organized a similar scheme for mid-Wales.

Mr Gasson Thorn, president of the Welsh Commission, has called for a report on snow damage in Wales.

Because local authority stocks of salt are heavily depleted, the ICI Meadow Banks mine, at Winstone, Cheshire, is looking to meet this weekend to about 36,000 tonnes a week to meet current demand. Recently the mine has been producing about 30,000 tonnes a week. It is capable of producing between 1,500,000 to 1,800,000 tonnes a year.

Salt at the mine head costs £9.50 a tonne. Delivery price varies from £12 and

£17 a tonne, depending on distance.

The freeze and the rail strike did not deter workers who rose to the challenge of getting to work with a "truly magnificent effort", according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Bryan Rigby, the CBI deputy director, said: "The British are at their best when they are up against it." He said millions of people were owed public gratitude for getting to work this week.

However, weekend travellers will face difficulties because of the continuing dispute involving the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF). There will be no trains on Sunday and services will be run down from 10 pm tonight.

Some cancellations of Inter-City trains are expected today and on Monday commuters can expect similar conditions to those experienced yesterday, with many delays and cancellations. British Rail said much of that would be caused by the use of locomotives to haul essential freight.

On Western Region yesterday a heavy overnight frost caused trains in sidings at Cardiff, Swindon and Oxford to become frozen to the rails. Nearly a third of Western Region services from Paddington were cancelled and there was a reduced Inter-City service.

BR reported three fast train delays in rail tunnels near Bristol. Inter-City trains between Sheffield and London and Nottingham and London were diverted while workmen chipped off large icicles in A1670 tunnel.

On the roads black ice and freezing fog made driving perilous in many areas, according to the RAC. Many roads remained blocked by hard packed snow in the West Country, and the police advised a 20 mph speed limit on the Severn Bridge. Critical machines were out of action in Northampton, where the temperature dropped yesterday to minus 20°C.

Malvern police want to hear if anyone was seen running large quantities of food or the theft of £1,500 of sausages, bacon and pies from a van abandoned in snow near the village of Alfrick.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service has been running an emergency mobile soup kitchen to help stranded lorry drivers on the M5 who have been suffering from exposure.

Information service, back page



Digging for victory: A car owner reclaiming his vehicle from the snows of Newport yesterday.

Letter from Wales

How 'Aladdin' beat the blizzards

By Sunday morning, with Llanelwyr Major surrounded by more than two million tons of snow, the producers and cast of Aladdin knew they had a crisis on their hands. For one of the stars, who was to play the part of a camel, was housebound five miles away and funds did not run to the hire of a helicopter to fly in the blind quarters of a ship of the desert.

The show was to open on Monday night and the village was searched from one frozen end to the other for a replacement. Driven by the maxim that the show must go on, another talent was eventually discovered and she spent the evening in the bitterly cold hall learning the dance routines.

Against all advice the show opened on Monday night, but as the hardy souls who braved the drifts settled in their seats another drama was being played out behind the curtain.

Mr Leslie Beckwith, who plays the dervish, had that day been shovelling snow and the key to the village in a snow machine. When eventually the bread van got through it was besieged.

Milk was also scarce and stronger souls walked with containers pulled on improvised sledges to Turlon Farm, turning the half-mile lane into a smooth and dangerous equivalent of the Cresta Run. With no cars moving to spoil the scene some people took to their skis.

Society seemed to divide into those determined to enjoy the snow as a welcome break from work and the others, workaholics, who developed withdrawal symptoms when their huge efforts to get behind the office desk failed.

One man rang up Cardiff on Monday suggesting that a special train be sent to the village, whose station has been closed for many years. British Rail, with a drivers' strike imminent, did not jump at the idea. Mothers deserved most sympathy, for the schools which should have reopened after the Christmas holidays were closed and they had to cope with endless streams of cold and wet children retreating from half-completed snowmen.

As if to prove that they do not distinguish between council and private house dwellers, the Labour-controlled council demonstrated its egalitarianism by leaving the roads leading to both uncared for. Road through the village, which meant that children and old people had to make undignified leaps on to the treacherous pavements when an occasional car came through.

British weather is not constant and by way of a welcome change the village was yesterday engulfed in banks of freezing fog, which gave the snow a rather gloomy look. But down the school hall Aladdin, like the Windmill, did not close and the show, complete with the back end of the camel, continued to pack them in.

Down in the White Lion Mr Geoffrey Burnett, captain of the darts league champions, had to tell his team that the top of the table clash with the Cambrian Club was off. Although the board was in perfect condition the opposition could not get through. To add to the deprivations the darts had not made its delivery and the landlord was half way through his last barrel of real ale.

St. Hilary's Church, Young Wives' Club, who meet in the thirteenth-century town hall, also decided to concede victory to Jack Frost and cancelled their evening, which was to have included a talk on "Farming Today". The decision did not unduly upset Mrs Liz Davies, the farmer and housewife, who was deep in snow, having quite enough of the agricultural life without speaking about it.

At the risk of upsetting theologians, it appeared that man might well live on bread alone, for the search for it and the lack of it became an obsessive talking point. When eventually the bread van got through it was besieged.

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Tim Jones

Prior denies cover-up in boys' homes sex inquiry

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mr Stephen McGonagle, a former Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, is to head the five-strong committee of inquiry into the affairs of an East Belfast boys' home and other homes in the province, which resulted in several men being convicted for sexual offences against boys in care.

But Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has rejected allegations made this week that civil servants in the Northern Ireland Office, police officers, businessmen and legal figures had been involved.

"In matters of such gravity it is wholly unacceptable that any individual or institution should be subject to trial by rumour or innuendo," he said.

Anyone who possessed information that further criminal acts had been committed, or evidence which could sustain criminal proceedings, should give it to the police immediately.

He was concerned with suggestions that there had been a cover-up to protect other guilty men from prosecution, and spoke of a police inquiry into incidents at the Kinross home and others as far back as 1955, in which 700 people were interviewed.

The inquiry, to be held in private, although its conclusions will be published, is to investigate the failure to identify earlier the serious malpractices in certain children's homes. The month three former staff members of the

Kinross boys' home admitted charges of buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault against boys in their care over almost 20 years.

Besides Mr McGonagle the committee members of the inquiry will be Professor Oliver Stevenson from Keele University, Professor Norman Tutt, from Lancaster University, Mrs Mary Clarke, vice-chairman of the management board of training schools in Ulster and a lay member of the juvenile court, and Dr George Humphreys, chairman of the Northern Ireland Health and Social Services Board.

Ulster Protestant leaders plan to set up a network of sympathetic groups throughout the United States in a drive to counter the highly republican propaganda (Christopher Thomas writes from New York).

A Unionist delegation arrived in Washington yesterday and almost simultaneously the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, arrived in Toronto amid threats of large-scale demonstrations by Irish republican groups.

Organizers of the trip are taking legal advice about a possible loophole to enable Mr Paisley legally to cross the border into the United States. Mr David Burnside, an Ulsterman and one of the main organizers, said: "It is possible rather than probable that Mr Paisley will arrive legally in the United States." But no attempt would be made to enter illegally.

Water men accept 9.1% offer

By Donald Macintyre Labour Correspondent

Leaders of 32,000 water and sewerage workers yesterday removed lingering fears of disruption in the industry by voting to accept a 9.1 per cent pay offer.

The National Water Council offer is one of the highest in the present public sector pay round and close to that offered to the miners.

Yesterday's decision, by 10 votes to 8, will come as a relief to ministers who had been anxious that resistance by leaders of the National Union of Public Employees might have led to a dispute.

Nupe's national water committee last month rejected the unanimous recommendation by negotiators to accept the offer, and a ballot of 10,000 members secured a 5-2 vote against.

The new agreement, backdated to December 6, will raise the basic rate for the highest grade of water worker from £78.70 to £85.85 a week. Average earnings in the industry are about £120 a week.

Machete murder trio given 'life'

Three men were jailed for life yesterday at the Central Criminal Court for a murder in which they began to cut up the victim's body while he was still alive.

One of them, John Bowden, was led struggling and shouting from the dock after Mr Justice May-Jones recommended that he should serve at least 25 years. He shouted: "You old bastard. I hope you die screaming of cancer."

Bowden, aged 24, a labourer, Michael Ward, aged 28, a grave digger, and David Begley, aged 41, a porter, were found guilty of murdering Mr Donald Ryan, aged 49. The judge recommended that Ward and Begley should serve at least 15 years.

Mr Michael Mansfield, for Bowden, offered no mitigation. The judge told Mr Rock Tansey, counsel for Begley: "This is an appalling case. There never was a more horrific case of murder than this one and your client was fully implicated in it."

"I am prepared to believe that he was not the prime mover. The person who was behind it all was the codefendant, Bowden, who obviously enjoyed inflicting pain and even killing."

Mr Tansey said Begley had no previous convictions for

violence; but his life had deteriorated because of alcoholism.

Sentencing Begley, the judge said: "I think this was a horrendous murder and anyone who is capable of taking part in an offence of this kind is a potential menace to the public at large."

He said he was satisfied that Ward had treated the matter as a "great joke" after he had been a party to dismembering Mr Ryan while he was still alive and disposing of parts of his body round the neighbourhood.

The judge told the jury that if they wished he would recommend that they be excused jury service for 20 years. "You have had a very difficult and gruesome task to perform," he said.

Mr Ryan's body had been cut up with a saw, electric carving knife and a machete and was found in a refuse bag in Colby, Fash, Camberwell, South London, where Ward lived with Shirley Brindle.

On Thursday she was found not guilty of murder. But she was convicted of conspiring to prevent Mr Ryan's burial and will be sentenced on Monday.

Parts of Mr Ryan's body were found in streets and on

wasteground. His head, which had been stored in a fridge, was later found in a refuse bag.

The judge directed that outstanding charges against Bowden alleging kidnapping, robbery and wounding be left on the file. Bowden, of Telford Place, Peckham, south London, was given a total of five years' jail for maliciously wounding Mr Robert Egan and Mr Patrick O'Connor in separate incidents, and for conspiring to rob Mr Ryan and conspiring to prevent his burial.

Begley, of Wincombe Court, Walworth, south London, was jailed for a total of five years for the assault on Mr Egan, conspiracy to rob Mr Ryan, and the conspiracy to prevent his burial.

During the trial a man who approached a juror and spoke to prosecution witnesses was jailed for 12 months for contempt of court. David Mulvaney, aged 25, of Brandon Estate, Walworth, was arrested after a witness reported the incident in November. An order was made that no publicity should be given to the matter until after the trial.

Yorkshire fares 'must be trebled'

By David Walker

The full effect of the Law Lords' rejection of cheap fares in London became apparent yesterday when Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour leader of the South Yorkshire County Council, stated that the long-standing policy of heavy subsidies for the area's buses was illegal.

At a press conference in Barnsley Mr Thwaites predicted that South Yorkshire fares would have to be trebled, that the present policy made councillors liable to a surcharge of £1m a day, and that the country faced a "social and environmental disaster".

"I fear for the future of public transport. The policy on which all public transport authorities in this country now work is at risk because of the legal position."

Without waiting for a legal challenge to the council's programme of subsidies, which allows people to travel a mile's journey for 4p, Mr Thwaites put himself and colleagues in the dock. The advice of counsel had left him in no doubt, he indicated.

Since the mid-1970s South Yorkshire has consistently paid for cheap bus fares with increased subsidies from the rates. In 1980-81 the income from fares was £20m, compared with a rateborne subsidy of £49m.

Public transport in the county, as in the other metropolitan areas of the West Midlands, Merseyside, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Tyne and Wear, is based on the Transport Act, 1962, which uses the word "need" in empowering the respective councils to subsidize local buses and trains and, in Merseyside, ferries.

Until this week that word was thought to protect the metropolitan counties from the challenge successfully made against the Greater London Council; its subsidies to London Transport are regulated by the London (Transport) Act, 1969.

Solihull Borough Council is seeking the High Court leave to proceed with an action against the West Midlands County Council on the ground that the county's supplementary rate levied in order to pay for a 24 per cent reduction in bus and train fares was illegal. Although council officials were at first jubilant about the weapon against high-spending councils given them by the Law Lords' judgment, they now realise that, in an official's words, it has opened a Pandora's Box.

Mr David Jewell, Secretary of South Yorkshire Transport, moved on Thursday to contradict his own previous pronouncements and offered the GLC a special subsidy so that concessionary fares for pensioners could be continued.

Rape sentences

Judges get tougher

By a Staff Reporter

An analysis of past sentencing on rape shows that fines for the offence are not only rare, but have become less common in recent years, while prison sentences have become longer.

Interpretation of the statistics needs care, as the circumstances of individual cases vary widely, and the classification of rape includes attempted rape and aiding and abetting.

Home Office figures show no fines for rape in 1979 and 1980, the last two years for which figures are available. Between 1970 and 1978, however, fines were imposed in 27 cases out of 3,492, the number of fines in each year varying between one and six.

The number of cases reported has risen from an annual average of 396 in the years 1955-59 to 1,225 in 1980 in England and Wales, an increase of more than 200 per cent. Since rape is acknowledged to be one of the least reported serious crimes, one estimate being that only one case in 20 is reported, that does not necessarily imply an increase in rape itself.

The number reported rose above 1,000 in 1974, and since 1976, when anonymity was guaranteed to the victims, there has been a 12 per cent increase in reported cases.

Over the past decade judges have shown remarkable consistency in sentencing. About 17 per cent of those sentenced to prison receive up to two years. With the exception of 1977, when longer sentences were imposed, that figure fluctuated by only about 2 per cent around the norm.

Sentences in the past decade seem to be appreciably tougher than 20 years ago. In the three-year period from 1958 to 1960 between 30 and 41 per cent of those imprisoned received two years or less, against about 16 per cent in the period 1976-80. Between 39 and 46 per cent received between two and four years, against almost 50 per cent in the 1976-80 period, and only 16 per cent received between four and seven years in the earlier three-year period, against almost 23 per cent between 1978 and 1980.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$18.50, Bahrain \$19.50, Belgium \$18.50, Canada \$19.50, Denmark \$18.50, France \$19.50, Germany \$18.50, Greece \$19.50, Hong Kong \$18.50, India \$19.50, Italy \$18.50, Japan \$19.50, Korea \$18.50, Kuwait \$19.50, Lebanon \$18.50, Libya \$19.50, Luxembourg \$18.50, Malaysia \$19.50, Mexico \$18.50, Netherlands \$19.50, New Zealand \$18.50, Norway \$19.50, Oman \$18.50, Pakistan \$19.50, Portugal \$18.50, Saudi Arabia \$19.50, Singapore \$18.50, South Africa \$19.50, Spain \$18.50, Sweden \$19.50, Switzerland \$18.50, Taiwan \$19.50, Thailand \$18.50, Turkey \$19.50, United Arab Emirates \$18.50, USA \$19.50, Venezuela \$18.50.

Leyland
wins heart of
Blue Circle
with £2m
order

Blue Circle, who deliver 7 million tonnes of cement each year have ordered 83 trucks from Leyland Vehicles.

Commenting on the deal, Blue Circle's Distribution Director Kenneth Rose said, "I believe the Leyland range is very well

suitable to trucking operations in the cement industry. The latest vehicles are competitively priced, well engineered and economic to run, which is an ideal combination for efficient fleet operation."

BL Fighting back

CLUB CASE LOST BY WOMAN

A ruling affecting the rights of 250,000 women members of clubs was given at Birmingham County Court yesterday.

Judge Auld held that although a rule of the Working Men's Clubs and Institutes Union (CIU), restricting associate cards to men only was discriminatory it was not unlawful. Private clubs were not covered by the sexual discrimination Act of 1975.

He dismissed a claim by Mrs Joyce Bonner, aged 51, of Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, against the Shirley British Legion Club and the CIU. She had alleged sexual discrimination because the club had refused her an associate card, although she was a member.

Giving a reserved judgment, Judge Auld said that CIU clubs did not constitute a "section of the public", as defined by the Act. He was satisfied that the Shirley legion club was a bona fide private members' club.



Jenkins breaks the Hillhead ice

Mr Roy Jenkins wooing the electors of Hillhead yesterday on his first walkabout in the Glasgow constituency which he hopes to win for the SDP-Liberal alliance. He spent 20 minutes talking to local people, mainly women shoppers, accompanied by his wife. The area chosen for his tour was reputedly the last of elderly ladies of the famed Kelvin-side species, staunch Glasgow Tories, to whom a crèche is something that happens when two cars collide.

After an inauspicious start—the first person he met was a young Englishwoman living in Glasgow who supported Mr Wedgwood Benn—things brightened up. He met several women who agreed afterwards that he seemed pleasant, and that although they normally voted Tory they had an open mind about the SDP.

Earlier, at a press conference, Mr Jenkins discounted suggestions that he was a "carpet-bagger", remarking with a smile: "They would say that, wouldn't they?" He added:

"I cannot claim to be a Scot or a Glaswegian, but I have been to Scotland a lot and been to Glasgow many times. I think I know the city reasonably well and it is certainly not strange territory to me."

He predicted a three-party campaign, resembling the Croydon by-election rather than those at Crosby and Warrington. He did not think the Scottish Nationalists, who announced their candidate on Monday, would be "in the first three".

Mr Jenkins denied suggestions that he was soft-peddling on the issue of devolution for Scotland. Asked if he thought a decentralization scheme for Scotland would have to wait until similar schemes could be sorted out for England and Wales, he said it would be preferable if it could be done as part of an overall decentralization scheme. But if it could not, Scotland would have to get such a scheme anyway.

مكتبة من الأصل

Gandhi gives up defence post in reshuffle

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 15

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, today reshuffled her Cabinet in the latest of a series of actions intended to strengthen her Government and party.

Earlier this week she lectured her India Congress Party about the growth of factional quarrelling and told members to behave. She also told her ministers she wanted better performance.

Last night, as she began the third year of her present Premiership, she broadcast to India's 700 million people and presented a 20-point programme. This is a redefined but similar version of the programme she introduced during the emergency in 1975. Essentially, it calls for overall economic and social improvement.

Mrs Gandhi's Government has been criticised from time to time for being directionless, and her cabinet has been described as the weak one since independence.

The bulk of her ministerial changes are in the second tier, with ministers exchanging jobs. There is only one new face, that of Mr Jagannath Kaushal, who becomes an Law Minister.

The most interesting change concerns the appointment of Mr R. Venkataraman, former Finance Minister, to Defence, a portfolio until now held by Mrs Gandhi.

He is one of the "brains" of the Cabinet and, no doubt, Mrs Gandhi feels she needs his skills as India looks for ways of improving its defence.

The fact that Mr Pranab Mukherjee, whose experience as an economic administrator is limited, has been drafted to take Mr Venkataraman's place is evident that Mrs Gandhi intends to bring economic management closer to herself and a few advisers.

Mrs Gandhi hopes that her organization will be stronger in the face of opposition criticism.

The reshuffled Cabinet is as follows:

Prime Minister: Mrs Indira Gandhi; Defence: Ramaswami Venkataraman; Finance: Pranab Mukherjee; External Affairs: P. V. Narasimha Rao; Home Affairs: Zail Singh; Communications: C. M. Stephens.

Energy: A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhury; Planning: S. B. Chavan; Irrigation: Kedar Pandey; Shipping and Transport: Veerendra Patil.

Information and Broadcasting: Vasant Sathar; Railways: Yashwantrao Chavan; Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers: P. Shiv Shankar; Health and Family Welfare: B. Shankaranand; Parliamentary Affairs and Works and Housing: Bhishma Narain Singh; Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction: Rao Birendra Singh; Industry, Steel and Mines: Narain Dutt Tiwari; Law, Justice and Company Affairs: Jagannath Kaushal.

Briton's killer is jailed for life

From David Brown, Baltimore, Jan 15

An 18-year-old man was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for shooting dead an English antiques dealer here last summer.

Michael J. Brown protested his innocence to the end, even as he stood weeping after the all-black jury of nine women and three men had delivered their verdict. The jurors took two and a half hours to reach their decision about the black defendant, who is an unemployed high school dropout.

Mr Brown, together with two other teenagers who will be tried separately, was charged with killing Phillip Rouse, aged 34, from Somerset, as he, his girlfriend, Anne Bullivant, and their host, Nigel Lawrence, were walking home from a disco here in the early hours of August 22. Mr Rouse was chasing a cyclist who had snatched his girlfriend's handbag when he was attacked and shot once in the chest. He died instantly.

On the third and last day of his trial the defendant testified, in slow and stuttering speech, that he had been with the people who had killed Mr Rouse, but nothing more. He also said that he was under the influence of whisky and marijuana when he gave a statement to police late on the night of his arrest.

In that statement, he confessed to being one of the robbers, but denied shooting Mr Rouse. Under Maryland law, however, any participant in a felony that results in death is held to be guilty of murder.

The prosecutor said that Mr Brown's statements were so contradictory that if the jurors believed them, he wanted to see them after the trial, so that "I can sell you some stock in the Brooklyn bridge."

When the proceedings were over, Mr Lawrence, with whom the victims had been staying on a two-week holiday in Baltimore said he felt justice had been done. "But it doesn't make me feel any better. I don't know what I feel, just pretty empty."

Mr Lawrence, who is also English, was a boyhood friend of Mr Rouse, and has been an antiques dealer in Baltimore for the last two and a half years.

Mr Stephen Miles, Brown's lawyer, said that an appeal would be lodged against the conviction, AP reports.



Picasso's mistress Jacqueline Rocque on one of a set of 19 silver plates designed by the artist and now on sale in New York for £250,000.

Mailer friend tells court his life story

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Jan 15

Norman Mailer, the author was in court yesterday and listening intently as his protégé Jack Abbott, aged 37, gave evidence in his own defence on a murder charge.

Mr Abbott's testimony consisted of a description of his life since childhood in a succession of foster homes, children's homes, reform schools and prisons.

His description paralleled the material he included in the book *In the Belly of the Beast* which consisted of a series of autobiographical and philosophical letters to Mr Mailer. Mr Mailer was instrumental in getting the letters from the convicted murderer published, wrote a foreword to the book and sponsored his parole.

The convict-author testified that he had been beaten, injected with drugs and starved during 24 years spent in various penal institutions.

He said that he had spent "two-and-a-half, maybe three years" in solitary confinement between the ages of 12 and 18, and another five-and-a-half years in solitary confinement after being transferred to adult prison.

The testimony he gave, sometimes in a quiet, undramatic way, and sometimes apparently on the point of tears, was part of a defence effort to show that a man raised in prison was unable to understand the complexities of life outside. "He is going to spread his whole life out to the jury," said his defence counsel Mr Ivan Fisher.

Mr Abbott is accused of the murder of a waiter at a New York bistro who refused to let him use a staff lavatory. He had been out of jail on a work release programme, working as a researcher for Mr Mailer for only six weeks.

Ten witnesses so far have testified for the prosecution that Mr Abbott became angered by the refusal and that he stabbed the 21-year-old waiter, a promising actor and playwright.

Mr Mailer talked for more than an hour with the accused man before the hearing. He declined comment, except to say "as I said at the beginning, it's a tragedy all round and I don't see any reason to change that remark."

In his testimony, Mr Abbott said that he knew little of his parents and ever since he could remember he had been brought up by the state.

From 12 to 18, he was in a training school for delinquents in Utah (according to his book he was sent there for "failure to adjust to foster homes"). He was freed at 18 and spent six months outside until sent to state prison for cashing stolen cheques. He received a further jail sentence after he had snatched a fellow-inmate to death.

Letter from Chicago Second Daley waits in the wings

Carl Sandburg called it the "city of the big shoulders" — hog butcher to the world. To Frank Sinatra, it is "my kind of town." But whatever Chicago's charms (and they are many), politically it is best known not just for unwavering loyalty to the Democratic Party but for the kind of old-fashioned machine politics that made it for over 21 years the personal fiefdom of the late Mayor Richard Daley. Some of that may be about to change.

America's second city today is vibrant, thriving, dynamic, priding itself on being taller, newer, cleaner and safer than New York. Much of that is attributable to Daley, with his policy of "a cop on every corner" and his determination to attract more and more business to the Loop — the city centre — so-called because it is bounded by a rickety loop-line railway.

Anything New York could do, Daley did better. While the Big Apple teetered on the precipice of bankruptcy and Los Angeles smothered in self-generated smog, Chicago thrived. One observer explained it simply by saying: "I have seen the past and it works."

On a visit to New York, Mr Daley took one look at the litter in Times Square, the graffiti on the subway trains and asked his aides in a voice cold with contempt: "Who's in charge here? I get the feeling nobody's in charge."

There was never any doubt about who was in charge of Chicago. Visitors entering the city from O'Hare Airport or across the Skyway Bridge soon got the message. Billboards that no eye could miss proclaimed it: "Welcome to Chicago, Richard J. Daley, Mayor." And then Monday, December 20, 1976, Richard Daley, the man who had made Presidents, collapsed and died in his doctor's surgery.

At first, nothing seemed to change. Michael Bilandic took over, a patient man, unbothered by the machine and at last coming into his own. He was popular, too. Flanked by Daley's four sons, he became the first Croat-American to lead Chicago's St Patrick's Day parade down State Street. His nomination for a full term of office seemed secure until a sudden snowfall defeated him.

Chicago is just now suffering the lowest temperatures it has known since records began in 1870. It is not called the Windy City for nothing. The breezes off Lake Michigan that cool downtown streets so pleasantly in the summer acquire a hostile edge from mid-November on. One cold day in 1977, close to primary election time, they dumped several inches of snow in the Loop and it took close on a week to unseat the traffic. Chicagoans were outraged.

Hiszenor or Himself (as Daley was variously known to the man in the street) would never have allowed it. They were right, too. Part of the Daley mystique was an ability to cope with the weather — that snowpoughs and dump trucks were lined up waiting to clear the snow almost as quickly as it fell. Mr Bilandic paid the price.

Chicago differs from other American cities in that voters go to the polls in April rather than November but, since Republicans have no chance in the race for mayor, the real decider is the Cook County Democratic primary several weeks earlier.

Mrs Jane Byrne, a Daley critic, entered the lists and won. Was it a defeat for the machine at last? Or just a case of Mrs Byrne borrowing the machine from the Daleys? The answer will not be known until the next primary early in 1983.

Mrs Byrne awaits the verdict calmly. Cool, well-groomed and self-assured, she is described by the newspapers as feisty (meaning tough, combative and by no means lacking in true grit).

A year from now, she may need all those virtues. For the word is gradually coming out that her opponent will be none other than Richard M. Daley, son of her old enemy, who recently won the key post of state's attorney.

The battle for the souls of Chicago Democrats will find loyalties divided. Some praise Mrs Byrne as a mayor in the modern mould. They tell you the day of the machine has ended all over America. Why should Chicago be different?

Others mutter darkly that the city is not what it was in the Daley days. There are whispers that it could even find itself in financial difficulties.

Chicagoans have 12 months to make up their minds.

Cyril MacDermott

Cooking oil scandal

Spain counts cost of tragedy

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 15

Spaniards, shocked by the human cost of the toxic cooking oil scandal — 243 people dead and at least 16,000 ill, most of them apparently permanently — are in for another jolt when they realize how much the fraud is costing the taxpayers.

Unofficial estimates put that bill near the £40m mark nine months after the wave of poisonings began, and the figure is expected to rise by several million pounds per month for a long time.

The direct costs can be divided roughly into four categories: medical attention, financial assistance to those affected, research, and the value of the good oil which authorities exchanged for bad oil in order to contain the danger.

The cost of hospital ward and outpatient care for those suffering from the so-called toxic oil syndrome during the first five months of the outbreak was a surprisingly low £197 per patient each month, according to the best figures available — issued by the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs.

That included x-rays, laboratory analyses, some social aid and the cost of hiring extra help and paying some overtime, but not the time spent by salaried medical staff.

With 15,178 people treated during that period, the total came to just under £15m or a monthly average of £3m. The number of such patients occupying hospital beds has levelled off to about 500 after peaking at about 2,000 last autumn.

But social aid and outpatient treatment have increased considerably. So it is probably fair to project the previous monthly treatment cost as a rough estimate for the present and the near future and that would put treatment costs at about £30m by the end of this month, with little hope of any appreciable drop in the monthly outlay for the moment.

Financial assistance for families of the deceased, for the incapacitated and for those who were widowed, orphaned, or left without the family's main wage-earner is dispensed under a special programme. The eventual cost of this has not been estimated by the authorities.

The Government began distributing such funds last autumn and is continuing to do so with an unofficial estimate putting the cost by the end of the month at about £1.58m, based on various factors, including a probable death toll by that time of about 250. Since this type of aid includes certain categories of pensions and monthly grants which, presumably, must be paid for years, the bill will continue to rise.

Research costs are hard to pin down though the public health authorities are said to have allotted an extra £2.75m for urgent work connected with the toxic oil syndrome. Informed sources say that not all of this money has been used — but it certainly will be and more will be needed from time to time until the precise nature of the poison has been described and an effective treatment developed.

In order to get the dangerous industrial-class rapeseed oil out of circulation, once it was identified as the source of the poison, the Government set up exchange points in a number of cities where good oil was offered for bad.

All anyone had to do was hand in suspect oil, usually bought in unlabeled five-litre jugs, and within a few days they were entitled to collect an equal quantity of genuine olive oil, most of which came from surplus agricultural stocks.

About 2.5 million litres of olive oil were given away in this manner. With an estimated value of at least 400 pesetas per litre, the free oil cost at least 250m pesetas — £1.37m.



She stood for everything the terrorists hated most.

Who better to stand by their side?

The violent abduction in 1974 of the daughter of one of America's most powerful newspaper magnates shocked the world.

But the motives seemed obvious... The terrorists would demand an enormous ransom. And Patty would, hopefully, be returned to her family unscathed.

Money, in fact, was the furthest thing from the kidnapers' minds.

Ten weeks later, Patty was photographed taking part in an armed bank robbery — an apparent convert to the cause.

It was a coup for the S.L.A., the "people's army." And one of the most astonishing

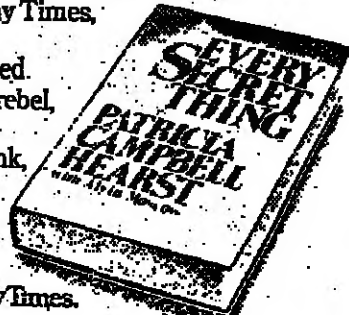
turnarounds in modern history. How could it possibly have happened?

Why did Patty seemingly turn on her parents with such vehemence?

There are two sides to every story. In "Every Secret Thing," a new book now being serialised exclusively in the Sunday Times, Patty Hearst tells hers.

Was she a dedicated revolutionary, reluctant rebel, or common criminal?

Whatever you think, it'll make you think again.



THE SUNDAY TIMES
Patty Hearst's own story continues this Sunday in the Sunday Times.

Haig returns to Middle East peace wrangle

From Christopher Walker, Tel Aviv, Jan 15

After months of hesitation, the American Government has returned to the thick of the Middle East peace process in what is seen as a last-ditch attempt to reach an agreement on the central issue of Palestinian autonomy, before the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, announced today before flying back to Washington that he would be returning to the Middle East in two weeks to begin a new round of discussions in Cairo and Jerusalem. If these show any sign of progress, a tripartite ministerial meeting will be convened.

In political circles, Mr Haig's visit to Israel is considered to have successfully defused the recent crisis in Israeli-American relations resulting from the annexation of the Golan Heights. It is also understood to have secured Israeli agreement to accept the territorial partition of Britain, France, West Germany and the Netherlands in the Sinai peace force.

At Tel Aviv airport, Mr Haig explained that greater American attention to auton-

omy was scheduled last October but was deferred by the assassination of President Sadat. "We do not delude ourselves that the fact of our adding a greater sense of urgency may make the difference," he said. "It may not. But we do not feel we have the luxury of not trying."

Before Mr Haig's return, the results of his four-day mission to Egypt and Israel will be assessed in Washington and new ideas formulated in an effort to bridge the formidable gap between the two countries over Palestinian self-rule. Only after his next visit will Mr Haig decide whether he, a new special envoy, or the American ambassador in Cairo and Tel Aviv will handle the intensified autonomy talks.

The reason for the sudden change in America's attitude was summed up by Mr Abbas Eban, the opposition foreign affairs spokesman, who said after meeting Mr Haig: "They, like we, have a rather somber appraisal of what the situation would be if we were to reach April without any progress at all. They think there would be disarray and we think there would be disarray."

Polish militia detain visiting US senator

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 15

The United States will not lift its block on a \$700m (about £350) credit for Poland unless the military council meets a number of conditions, including allowing a meeting between Mr Lech Walesa, the detained Solidarity chairman, and the United States Ambassador. That view was expressed today by Senator Larry Pressler (Republican, South Dakota) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who is the first high-level American visitor to Warsaw since the imposition of martial law.

Senator Pressler, who also carried two letters from the Pope to Archbishop Józef Glemp, has been having talks with Polish leaders, including Mr Jerzy Olszowski, a Deputy Premier. Mr Olszowski made clear that the blocking of United States food credits would impose substantial hardship on Poland, including the slaughtering of livestock herds that would set back the meat supply situation by some two to three years.

The Senator's trip was marred by an embarrassing incident during which he was briefly detained by militia after taking photographs in a supermarket. Militia cars blocked the Senator's vehicle and he was hustled out of the food shop which, apart from people, was largely empty. "I rather fear for those who fall into the hands of people like this," he told Western reporters later. "It gave me a sense of how repressive this society could be."

It is clear that the United States is concentrating on achieving certain limited aims in its diplomacy towards Poland. One of these is the freeing of Mr Walesa. Other goals involve the general easing of martial law restrictions. Mr Pressler was told that the military leadership would like Mr Walesa to start negotiations on a revised union but that he could only consult his president, most of whom are in internment

camp, after and not before agreeing to these talks.

This appears to have been the main stumbling block in talks on the same subject between the Senator and the United States Ambassador. The Church has been urging that the Solidarity leadership be released so that it can, with Mr Walesa, negotiate some form of agreement with the government. The government however continues to insist that it has a better chance of securing what it wants — a neutered non-political union — if Mr Walesa is kept isolated.

The Church and the military council, after an initial spurt of goodwill, have found their talks leading to deadlock. Mr Glemp agreed to meet General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the military council, last Saturday and many Church sources saw this as a sign that the council would make substantial concessions on internment.

Internment, recently freed, are reporting a slight improvement in conditions in some camps but no major headway has been made. The government is still insisting that martial law will probably last for some time (despite earlier news that martial law would go in February) and that internment will only disappear when military rule is finally lifted.

Increasingly, in the past few days, it has become clear that the Polish Church must again rely on the Vatican to put pressure on the government. The Pope's recent criticism of internment had considerable effect on the government. A letter was sent to the Pope from the Prime Minister and the two letters given to Mr Pressler in Rome earlier this week for delivery to Mr Glemp give the reply. Mr Pressler meets Mr Glemp tomorrow.

No details are known of the letters, although they almost certainly urge Mr Glemp to stand firm on issues such as internment

EEC looks at revised budget deal for Britain

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 15

EEC foreign ministers made a determined effort today to decide how much Britain should pay into the Community budget. All seemed agreed that this was the only way to settle the problems which have beset the EEC for the past two years.

The informal meeting in Brussels was originally meant to study four basic questions. But after a long session yesterday, much of it spent arguing details of three agricultural problems, Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian President of the Council, decided the only way forward was to restrict debate to the British budget contribution.

With the help of Cimmunion specialists, his staff worked out yet another compromise proposal in the course of today's lunchtime adjournment. This compromise was as widely based as possible.

It used suggestions originally put before the meeting by Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission's President. These had been adapted by West German specialists and then British footnotes had been added to this adaptation. The final draft began with this version, also taking into account points which had been raised by Claude Cheysson, the French Minister.

From a British point of view the compromise had the advantage of offering a five-year subsidy package, which is the longest period suggested during the six months intensive negotiations. At the same time there was no suggestion of a review at the end of five years, contrary to the British view that a permanent solution rather than a restricted one was essential.

There were many criticisms from all round the table about the suggested mechanism for funding the rebate which might be due to Britain and for working out how the British contribution itself should be calculated.

The long debate on the budget issue meant it was impossible to reach any detailed agreements on the three agricultural questions. It is likely that the details on them could be left to agriculture ministers.

The existing suggestion for dealing with the problem of milk production, which is the subject of greatest interest to Britain, would not alter existing levies although it would provide 20 per cent of receipts from levies to help small farmers.



Our hero: Linda Skutnik and sons Glen and Mitchell, at home in Lorton, Virginia, yesterday when her husband Lenny risked his life diving into the Potomac to rescue Kelly Duncan, an Air Florida stewardess.

Washington air disaster clues emerge

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 15

Navy and Coast Guard divers, braving sub-zero temperatures, today located the black box and voice recorder near the tail of the Air Florida Boeing 737 which crashed into the Potomac river in central Washington on Wednesday.

Mr Jim Burnett, acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is heading an investigation into the crash, told *The Times* the two instruments appeared undamaged and he expected them to be retrieved later today.

It is hoped the black box will provide vital clues to whether excessive ice was responsible for the crash. The aircraft took off from Washington's National Airport in a snowstorm which had kept the airport closed for much of the day.

The aircraft had to wait for between 20 and 50 minutes on the runway after its last de-icing before takeoff and the pilot of another aircraft reported seeing an ice build-up on the jet as it was taxiing to the runway.

The aircraft was scheduled to take off at 2.15 pm, but did not pull away from the terminal to taxi to the runway until about 3.40 pm. It was cleared for takeoff at about 4 pm. However, according to one report, there was an additional delay between the time the aircraft was given its final de-icing and when it began to taxi from the terminal.

Mr Francis McAdams, the safety board member in charge of the investigation, conceded that ice was a possible cause of the crash but emphasized that investigators would only have a clearer idea of what happened after they had been able to examine the contents of the flight data recorder.

"Ice would add to the weight of the plane and could affect its take-off performance," Mr McAdams said, adding that investigators had already impounded samples of the de-icing fluid used as well as the lorry which sprayed the aircraft. Investigators would also look at other possibilities such as fuel impurities and pilot error.

A spokesman for the airline said the de-icing fluid normally gave protection for up to one hour. However, the airline pilots' association pointed out today that it had already issued a warning to pilots that certain types of fluid were inadequate.

Salvage work continued today as the death toll from the disaster rose to 78 after two motorists who were on the bridge at the time of the crash died in hospital. The toll included 74 of the 79 people on board the aircraft and four people on the bridge. The final figure could be higher because other people could have been swept from the bridge and their bodies hidden under the ice.

More than two dozen divers, operating from a floating platform, were working around the submerged wreckage today. They were hampered by bad visibility, scattered debris and freezing temperatures which meant they could only stay in the water for 30 minutes.

Their initial tasks were to establish the exact position and condition of the wreckage and to retrieve the black box. According to Police Inspector James Shugart, spokesman for the recovery effort, the tentative investigation by the divers revealed that the fuselage of the aircraft was not intact.

If that was confirmed they would start trying to remove the bodies from the aircraft before pulling the wreckage from the water. Another official said the aircraft appeared to have broken into three large parts.

Ice deadly peril in aviation

By Michael Bailly, Transport Correspondent

Ice, a possible cause of the Washington air disaster, has been dreaded by aviators ever since man took to the air.

The greatest danger is ice forming on the leading edge of a wing, altering its aerodynamic shape and diminishing its power to lift. It can also form on the engine nacelles, distorting the air

intake and reducing power. Another problem is slush clinging to an aircraft on a runway and impeding take-off.

Pilot error arising from slush makes a fourth risk: sometimes he will taxi with flaps up to avoid ice and slush forming on them, then forget to lower the flap to increase lift for take-off.

Ice forms when water suspended in the atmosphere touches a solid object. On the ground it is cleared by spraying anti-ice, a 60/40 mixture of anti-freeze and hot water which not only clears ice but prevents it reforming for several minutes.

In the air it is used to clear the leading edge of the wing; but now very hot air is fed in ducts from the engines along the leading edges and to other critical parts.

It is the pilot's responsibility to ensure that an aircraft is deiced before takeoff. A German inquiry found a British pilot had not done this in the Munich air disaster in 1958, when a BEA Elizabethan carrying Manchester United footballers crashed on take-off, killing 21.

This was denied by the pilot, the late Captain Thane, who fought the decision and was eventually vindicated by the British finding that slush on the runway had contributed.



Men at the top: Lieutenant General Alvaro Lacalle, Lieutenant General Ramon de Ascanio, Vice-Admiral Saturnino Suarez and General Emilio Garcia Conde.

Spain names new defence chiefs

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 15

Three new service chiefs for Spain's armed forces and a new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were named by the Cabinet today.

Lieutenant-General Alvaro Lacalle, aged 63, the former Captain-General of the Valladolid military region, is the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The new Army Chief is a surprise: Lieutenant-General Ramon de Ascanio, aged 61, and until now in the key post of Director of Army Personnel. The new Navy Chief is Vice-Admiral Saturnino Suarez, aged 60, and the Air Chief is General Emilio Garcia Conde, aged 63.

The Government of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo announced last night it had decided to retire from active service the existing chiefs, who are aged 65 and 65, in anticipation of their reaching the new regulation limit over the next few months.

This is the Government's prerogative under the 1978 democratic constitution but the decision to carry out the changes has been a surprise. There had been speculation during the past month, but the changes were expected in stages, beginning with General José Gabeiras, the Army chief who would have to go in April under the new rules. In all, nine senior Army generals are due to retire between April and September.

General Gabeiras will be giving evidence at the trial of people involved in last February's attempted coup and if he had stayed on this could have led to complications. But even El Alcazar the daily of the ex-combatants on Franco's side in the civil war, which has good connections in right-wing Army circles, was surprised by the timing of the move.

With divisions in the Army

denounced only this week by the Madrid regional commander, there is a tense atmosphere after the changes. In the background still is the right wing "Manifesto of the 100" which expressed solidarity with those accused in the coup trial and told civilian politicians to respect the "necessary autonomy" of the armed forces.

The most controversial appointment from a democratic standpoint is that of the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. The decision is technically the Prime Minister's but it seems to have followed General Lacalle's strong position in the Spanish Army's rigid hierarchy. All other appointments are on the Defence Minister's recommendation following consultations by senior officers in each service.

General Lacalle is said now to enjoy good relations with the King although he joined as a volunteer on Franco's side in the civil war and fought in the "Blue Division" on Hitler's side in Russia in the Second World War.

There was some criticism last August when he was named Captain-General in Valladolid, in view of his reported past sympathies with Fuerza Nueva, the neo-Falangist movement, which has chosen the Castilian town as one of its propaganda centres.

General de Ascanio, an artillery officer from the Canaries, is known as a highly professional soldier. The new Air Force Chief is a former tutor of King Juan Carlos and served closely General Gutierrez Mellado when he was Deputy Prime Minister in charge of defence matters in the Suarez Government.

Police deny Kitson murder link

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Jan 15

An armed police guard was posted today outside the flat where Mrs Joan Weinberg was found dead with head injuries on Wednesday. She was the aunt of Mr Steven Kitson, the Briton who was detained by South African security police last week.

A post-mortem has failed to show the cause of death, but Colonel Marie van der Linde, head of the Johannesburg murder and robbery squad, said: "We are still investigating a murder case." Earlier, General Mike Geldenhuys, the Police Commissioner, commented on local newspaper reports that have indicated that Mrs Weinberg's death may have

been linked to her nephew's arrest and his expulsion from South Africa on Tuesday.

He said the police had been unaware of a family connection between Mrs Weinberg and Mr Kitson until newspapers telephoned the police spokesman and inquired about it.

"If certain newspapers want to create the impression that the police have murdered Mrs Weinberg or that she could have been politically knocked off, they will be making the mistake of their existence."

Mrs Weinberg, who was 53, ran a lonely hearts club from her flat and is known to have extended hospitality to destitute

Mr Kitson was expelled from South Africa on Tuesday after being held for six days. General Geldenhuys said he was arrested for sketching details of the Pretoria prison where his father, Mr David Kitson, aged 63, is in the seventeenth year of a 20-year sentence for sabotage.

General Geldenhuys said Mr Steven Kitson had been instructed by agents in Britain to obtain information which could be used to help in the escape of convicted terrorists.

The police have removed tapes and newspaper cuttings from Mrs Weinberg's flat

CUSTOMS DUTY ON A GOOD TURN

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Jan 15

It was a pleasant surprise for Mr Garth Johnson when he found two bottles of Scotch on a deserted South African beach. There were also two cartons of cigarettes and \$50 (£25) in a waterproof package that had been dropped overboard from a passing freighter. A covering note, signed by the ship's captain, asked the finder of the package to post 30 letters inside it, which had been written by members of his crew, and keep the rest.

But two customs officials also turned up demanding 14.32 rand (£5.28) import duty and sales tax.

Ghana told to restore civil rule

From Godfrey Morrison, Accra, Jan 15

The association of lawyers, doctors and other professional men in Ghana today called on the military government to restore constitutional rule next year.

In a statement the association said the Provisional National Defence Council, which seized power in a coup here on New Year's Eve, should serve out the rest of deposed President Hilla Limann's term which expires next year, and then restore constitutional rule.

The association expressed support for the council's expressed intent to root out corruption and criticized the Limann Government for encouraging corruption and failing to deal with Ghana's economic problems.

Just how long the new government intends to rule is not clear. Brigadier Joseph Nunn-Mensah, a council member, said yesterday that the new government would be in power "for a bit of time".

The statement urged the new government to re-enact provisions of the civilian constitution guaranteeing individual rights, and called for freedom of the press.

In Kumasi, the nation's second city, troops yesterday overturned and set on fire market stalls. An army officer as saying this had been done because traders had refused to heed the new regime's appeals for a reduction in prices.

In Accra, Mr Chris Bukari Akin, another council member, issued what he described as the last appeal to traders. "Our patience is running out," he told a rally.

Yesterday, there were clear indications that some traders were withdrawing goods from sale rather than respond to the new regime's appeal for price reductions.

Though the battle of wills between the traders and the Government represents a serious problem for Mr Jerry Rawlings, the council leader, the announcement of the release from protective custody of 38 MPs, including four former ministers from the government of President Limann, could indicate growing confidence within the new government.

United States today accused the Government of Ghana of trying to organize an economic boycott of Ghana in order to bring down the new military government. (Reuters reports).

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Argentine women in protest

Buenos Aires.—Relatives of missing people in Argentina have written to President Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri requesting a meeting.

The "Plaza de Mayo Mothers" held a quiet demonstration in the square facing Government House. The women, most of them wearing white handkerchiefs on their heads inscribed with names of their missing loved ones, marched around the monument to the May, 1910, revolution and disrupted police surveillance. Four women broke away from the group and delivered the letter to the President at Government House.

Señora Hebe de Bonafini, one of the mothers, said they would return to Government House next Thursday for a reply from the President.

Black premier for Bermuda

Hamilton.—The ruling united Bermuda party has chosen Mr John Swan the black Home Affairs Minister, as its new Premier and Minister of Bermuda.

Mr Swan, who is 46, is one of only six black members of the party. A wealthy businessman who owns a thriving real estate firm, he takes over from Mr David Gibbons, who resigned last year after four years in the post.

Dr Runcie ends Asian tour

Colombo.—The Archbishop of Canterbury flew back to England after 19-day Asian tour in which he visited China, Hongkong, Burma and Sri Lanka, where a planned four-day tour was extended to five because of weather conditions in England.

The highlights of Dr Runcie's visit to Sri Lanka was his visit to the historic Buddhist Temple of the Tooth Relic at Kandy and a special service at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour in Colombo where Buddhist monks in saffron robes participated in a service in the national languages with Sinhalese music, dancing, decor and lighting. A woman ras plucker made a symbolic offering of a bag of tea leaves during the offertory.

Police accused of homosexuality

Hong Kong.—Eight alleged homosexual police officers have been summoned to headquarters and given 14 days to explain in writing why they should be retained in the force, according to a local television report. The eight were believed to be living with other men. Homosexuality is a crime punishable by imprisonment in Hong Kong.

Nuclear talks to continue

Geneva.—United States and Soviet negotiators met for nearly two and a half hours at the Soviet mission here to continue negotiations on curbing medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. By agreement, the two delegations issued no details of matters discussed but announced a further session would be held at the United States mission next Tuesday.

Fraser drive to cut strikes

Sydney.—Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister of Australia, announced that he will meet trade union leaders in an attempt to cut chronic industrial disruption which he said was seriously threatening Australia's international competitiveness. Mr Fraser told a convention of the youth branch of his Liberal Party that strikes threatened investment and destroyed job prospects for young people.

Cost of bases

Manila.—The United States has provided \$34.1m (about £16.5m) worth of helicopters, armaments and engineering equipment to the Philippines as part of the rental for the use of military bases in the country.

Paris train crash

Paris.—Two people were killed and several seriously injured in a crash involving a lorry and two commuter trains at St Gratien station north of Paris.

DEAN INJURED

Johannesburg.—A Black Lutheran clergyman, Dean T. S. Parisani, has been admitted to hospital with serious head injuries after being detained in the black homeland of Venda last month with three other black clergymen, a church spokesman said.

BULLION ROBBERY

Athens.—Two masked and armed robbers stole gold bars valued at about £250,000 from a dealer who was carrying the bars in his car for delivery after clearing them through customs.



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THE BIG BANK MUDDLE

The majority recommendation of the Monopolies Commission to turn down both bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the Trade Secretary's decision to accept the recommendations, are understandable but wrong. They are understandable because neither Minister nor Commission were likely to relish allowing a take-over which would have seriously undermined the position of the Bank of England and offended vociferous elements of Scottish feeling. They are wrong because the grounds chosen for the rejection — that the bids would have removed decision-making from Scotland and would make British banking vulnerable to foreign decisions — are stated so as to sidestep the basic issues not to tackle them.

Even if one accepted the prominence given to the arguments for retaining an independent Scottish banking force, the fact is that the directors of the bank in this case sought themselves a merger with an international partner because they felt it necessary for the future prosperity of the Royal Bank. To reject their view still leaves the Royal Bank with all the problems that brought it to seek a merger in the first place, only now it faces a future with a divided management and a confused staff — all the more so as more than half the Royal Bank's profits come from its London-based Williams and Glyn's subsidiary.

The report is also evasive in that, while sniffing at the more fundamental issues of competition in the British banking system and the traditional methods of informal control by the Bank of England, it then promptly retreats from them. As the dissenting Mr. R. G. Smethurst argues, the most important consideration is one of competition. And it is an element on which the Commission, while worrying much about the removal of control from Scotland to abroad, puts remarkably little emphasis. Yet the question of allowing foreign take-overs is inseparable from the issue of whether they will bring benefits in greater competition.

Few looking at the British banking scene at present, in Scotland or in the rest of the British Isles, can feel that the clearing banks would not benefit from new blood, still less when the banking profits made by the British clearers from the domestic market have been used so extensively to seek purchases of foreign banks in the U.S. or elsewhere. To say, as the Commission does, that it is not opposed to foreign ownership in principle but just this particular one in practice is simply a way of ducking the issue. It leaves all British banks theoretically vulnerable to a foreign take-over whilst denying it in this case.

Even greater uncertainty does the Commission report leave on the issue of banking control — the heart of the Bank of England's objections

to the Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation's bid. The Governor of the Bank of England had wanted to retain a system that effectively closed the industry to foreign bids without stating so in legislation and discreetly controlled the action of banks through the nod-and-the-wink. The Commission has supported the Governor's particular objection to Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation. But it has not upheld the informal system of control that he was championing.

So where can the various parties go from here? The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will presumably retire to consider new approaches to take-overs both here and in Europe. Standard and Chartered will now have to look again at how it can move away from its current dependence on South Africa. The poor old Royal Bank will have to move fast to restore morale in its staff, to reconsider the position of the directors most committed to a merger and to find alternative ways of providing the international service which its customers are felt to want. Most sensitively of all, the Bank of England and the Government will now have to consider what they can do to restore some system of direction, through legislation or the publication of new guidelines.

And in this sorry tale of postponed decisions, it will be the customer who, as usual, loses.

FAIR DEALING IN FINE ART

It is almost seven years since Sotheby's and Christie's introduced a buyers' premium charge at their London auctions, but the opponents of the scheme, notably the art dealing fraternity, are even more vociferous today than they were at the start. A law suit brought over premium by the two major dealers' associations against the auctioneers was settled out of court in September, but the Office of Fair Trading is still looking into their allegations, that Sotheby's and Christie's colluded over the introduction of premium in 1975.

The Society of London Art Dealers has now at last agreed to make available to the director of fair trading the evidence it has compiled bearing on the issue without which it would have been difficult to proceed. But confusion has always been a side issue. It just happens to be the only point over which the auctioneers appear to be attackable at law. The central issue, for the public as much as the dealers, is whether any charge to auction buyers should be permitted at all.

The auctioneers are sellers' agents. Until 1975 they took commission only from sellers. It would be quite unethical for them to act for both sides in a transaction, so why make a charge to buyers? The

auctioneers hasten to assure us that they are not acting for buyers, merely charging them a premium. It does not sound correct. Indeed, it is not correct.

The decision to introduce premium was taken on purely commercial grounds. The market had struck a bad recession in 1973-74 and the auctioneers desperately needed to boost their income. On cheaper lots they were already charging 15 per cent (compared to only 7½ per cent before the war) and they feared that raising it to 18 or 20 per cent would scare away sellers. Both houses had recently begun to hold sales in Europe, in Geneva, Amsterdam and Florence, and had been struck by how much more profitable their sales proved when they followed the European practice of charging buyers as well as sellers. They had also been made aware of its advantages in treating with sellers; you could offer to reduce your commission, to zero if necessary, strong in the knowledge that you would be collecting a fixed percentage from buyers.

Thus the auctioneers decided to introduce premium to London, essentially as a means of obscuring the fact that they were raising their charges. It has proved highly advantageous from the auc-

tioners' point of view and has been re-exported from London to New York where Sotheby's and Christie's also dominate the auction scene. Indeed, Sotheby's and Christie's together now hold a near duopoly position in fine art auctioneering world wide. This generates large profits but also entails responsibilities.

Premium is essentially a shoddy means of making the vendor believe that the auctioneer is taking a smaller cut on the sale of his goods than is in fact the case. The fact that European auctioneers traditionally made such a charge does not make the little deception any less shoddy. It was an abuse, even if a minor one, of the auctioneers' vast power in the art market that they forced the charge on Britain. It is a stain, even if a slight one, on Britain's reputation for fair dealing that they forced the charge on America.

It would be good for the auctioneers' reputation, Britain's reputation and the smooth running of the international art market if they returned to the straight forward practice of charging their clients only. It would be good if Mr Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, the art dealers, or the legislature could persuade them to do so.

IT'S ALL GREEK TO US

There is nothing like a debate over spelling for raising the blood pressure of purists and pedants the world over. The Greeks know this as well as anyone because they have been quarrelling over the proper way, not just of writing their language, but even of speaking it for the best part of two centuries. And the disputes are not over yet. At the bidding of the new Socialist government Parliament has just adopted legislation which will abolish the present system of accents. A system which was first introduced more than two thousand years ago, by the Alexandrians of the Hellenistic period, has thus been done away with in a brief amendment to an education bill, adopted in the early hours of the morning. No wonder the opposition walked out in protest.

Greek, after all, is not like some parvenu tongue of northern Europe. Its roots go back to the second millennium BC, when it was written down in Linear B, a script found on clay tablets from Knossos and elsewhere. It did

not have accents then, however, nor did it have them in the classical period, when a script much like the one in use today had been introduced, courtesy of the Phoenicians. The accents — grave, acute and a sort of semi-circular hoop — were introduced by the Alexandrians as a way of marking the stressed syllables, and the rules were complex enough to create difficulties for generations of Greek schoolchildren, not to mention those learning Greek, both ancient and modern, in other countries.

Now the Greek Government proposes to simplify all this. Instead of three different accents, there will be only one — possibly a little triangular shape already used by some newspapers. Mr Vervakis, the Minister of Education, confidently estimates that the changes will save the average Greek schoolchild 6,000 hours of work; and that the cost of typing will be reduced by 40 per cent.

The opposition say that

they do not contest these advantages, only the haste with which it is all being rushed through. Nor are they well placed to protest too much. They themselves, when they were in power, were responsible for another historic move, when they abandoned the official use of "purist" Greek in favour of "demotic". Purist Greek is an artificial language, composed in the years before Greek independence in an attempt to revive the speech of classical times, and given official standing. Demotic, which is essentially the spoken tongue, is now in the ascendancy, and will be given the new, single-accent system.

There is more in this than grammar. Purist Greek is thought to indicate someone of right inclinations and the demotic to be the mark of the left; these days some supporters of the Government are provoking their opponents by using ultra-demotic forms on television and radio. How convenient it would be if syntax and sound were political giveaways in a fractional but rather more furtive Britain.

However, I am also aware, and as a distinguished lawyer, Mr Blom-Cooper ought to be aware, that Lord Edmund Davies, the law lord, came to a very different conclusion in the 1979 case of *Customs and Excise v Menocal* (vol 69, *Criminal Appeal Reports*, pp 166, 167).

He said specifically that section 11(2) should be widely interpreted, notwithstanding an earlier decision of a Court of Appeal.

That means there are strong grounds for suggesting that it is

possible for the judge to reconsider his sentence.

However, I am much less concerned with one particular case than with its implications for the future. And today's statement by the Lord Chief Justice will undoubtedly ensure that future sentences will suit the gravity of the crime of rape.

Yours, etc,
JACK ASHLEY,
House of Commons.
January 15.

Reconsidered sentences

From Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP for Stoke on Trent, South (Labour).
Sir, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, was quite wrong in saying (January 15) that I did not know of the Court of Appeal's decision in 1978 that section 11(2) of the Courts Act 1971 should be narrowly interpreted, using it for slips of the tongue or memory and not for important changes in a sentence. I was well aware of this as it is quoted by many lawyers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Effects of abolition of corporation tax

From Mr Basil de Ferranti, MEP for Hampshire West (Conservative) and Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, MP for Kensington (Conservative) and MEP for London South East (Conservative).
Sir, The Government's Green Paper on Corporation Tax starts with the premise that the tax is here to stay. However, the evidence presented in the Green Paper can only lead to the conclusion that the tax should be abolished.

Of course, companies should continue to act as servants of the Inland Revenue by collecting income tax on dividends paid to stockholders via the medium of the misnamed advance corporation tax. However, the now relatively small sum raised by mainstream corporation tax could be more equitably and cheaply collected by companies for the Revenue by a minor increase in value-added tax.

The abolition of the notion that companies should be taxed like individuals would mean ensuring that there is no longer having to be remembered that individuals can build up an asset for sale now which, if realized, is taxed as a capital gain. The abolition of corporation tax would not, therefore, create a tax loophole.

However, the staff that would be released by no longer having to define a company's taxable profit according to the law, both within companies themselves, within the accountancy profession and within the Inland Revenue, could be very substantial, even after allowing for additional effort to be applied for ensuring the legitimacy of business expenses. Furthermore, an end to the inflation accounting argument would, in itself, release some very skilled effort for more productive ends.

Surely, most professional accountants would rather be involved in helping clients with real problems than with the unconstructive tedium of assessing limits to tax reliefs according to some commercially meaningless definition of profit.

The Green Paper uses the phrase "taxation of company income". This betrays a basic misunderstanding. All companies do is to collect tax, in effect, from the company's profits. It causes companies to increase their prices according to their profits. Value-added tax causes companies to increase their prices in accordance with the value that they have added. The former is arbitrary and supports the inefficient, whereas the latter enables the more efficient to invest and create jobs.

The European Commission has been seeking ways of harmonizing tax on company profits in order to simplify business decisions and avoid distortions to trade. The simple way of harmonizing corporation tax through-out Europe would be to abolish it altogether, thereby boosting businessmen's confidence and making an important contribution to lifting the European economy off the bottom of the present recession.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL DE FERRANTI,
BRANDON RHYS WILLIAMS,
Millbank Tower, SW1.
January 14.

Covenanting and the papal visit

From the Bishop of Norwich.
Sir, The coincidence of your Religious Affairs Correspondent's article on the probable visit of the Pope to England at Whitstide, together with the letter by my close and well-loved friend Bishop Alan Clark, the Roman Catholic Bishop in East Anglia (January 4, pp 7 and 8) underlines both the difficulty and the opportunity facing the Church of England this year.

First, the difficulty. Bishop Alan Clark speaks of the difficulties of the Roman Catholic Church over the "Ten Propositions", the theological basis of the "Covenanting Proposals" between the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Moravian Church and the United Reform Church. He speaks of the inability of the Roman Catholic bishops who attended the Synod of Arles in AD 314, and before the Reformation, and before the Norman Conquest, and even before Augustine's Mission, the Virgin Mary herself and the Anglican church of this land, together with its sister Celtic churches in these islands. The Pope should know, beyond any peradventure, that it is to such a church and such a nation that he comes.

So much for the difficulty. The opportunity is equally real. Although the Pope's visit can only be pastoral and to his own flock it will arouse a great deal of interest. We shall want to welcome him as an honoured guest and as the brave, outspoken, traditional leader of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church. We shall be glad that in Canterbury Cathedral he will taste for himself the reality, spirituality and warmth of our Anglican worship, so biblical and congregational.

Should we not look to him also both to listen carefully to what his hosts in our Church of England would wish seriously to say to him: and to take this opportunity of making some reciprocal gesture to indicate his own recognition of the historic Church of England as a true part of the world-wide Catholic Church of which Christ Jesus Himself is the Divine Head.

I thank Bishop Alan Clark and Clifford Longley for pointing out the issues in this year, which is likely to be known as the Year of the Covenant, as well as the year of the Pope's visit.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE NORVICK,
The Bishop's House,
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However, I am delighted that the bishop writes about the "local" level, because here in Norfolk he and I work in the warmest Christian harmony, and

Church of England, Roman Catholic and Free Church Christians are deeply involved together in social concerns, evangelistic enterprises, and particularly in educational and training matters.

The difficulty is not therefore of local relationships between Christian people, but concerns the wider, public, political issue. If the Pope comes to England without offering any move towards formal recognition concerning our Church of England membership, and the validity of our priestly and episcopal orders, we are put into a "Catch 22" position. Because the great majority of English people are not willing to accept his implicit claims as Pontiff, to be "Pontifex Maximus", and the essential human channel by which Divine Grace flows to all Christians, we

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority.
Sir, Your report headlined "Schools in London may put 14 per cent on rates" (January 8) repeats the familiar canard about the ILEA's rate precepting powers. You say: "Under a system peculiar to London, ILEA will pass on its demand for money to the borough councils in the form of a precept. They have to pay ILEA by law."

In fact the system you describe applies equally to the process by which the 50-odd shire county councils, which are local education authorities, derive their income from the district councils in the rest of England and Wales. The only "peculiar" aspect in inner London is that each of the borough councils elects a member of the ILEA and their representatives are fully involved in the decision-making process. Indeed the present chairman and vice-chairman of Inner London Education Authority are both borough council members. District councils enjoy no such representation on the county councils.

May I also use this opportunity to shoot down two other canards which still flap across your columns on occasion? First, a government can ever "return" control of education to the inner London boroughs for the simple reason that they have never had control. The present-day ILEA provides a direct service for the whole of inner London as its predecessor-bodies have done since the inception of public education a century ago. Secondly, direct democratic control of the Authority can never be "introduced". It exists already as the voters in the 35 dual GLC/ILEA constituencies can verify.

Yours faithfully,
BRYN DAVIES, Leader,
Inner London Education Authority,
County Hall, SE1.
January 12.

Rear-Admiral Dunbar-Nasmith refers at some length to the possible use of the hydro board's hydro stations in order to provide a cheap power supply to Laver-gordon. Such an arrangement, if implemented, could only be to the disadvantage of our ordinary consumers, as it ignores the situation whereby the low cost benefits of "hydro" have already been used to meet the losses incurred — estimated at £25m per annum — in providing supplies of electricity to consumers in remote and isolated areas on an economic basis.

Finally, I should explain that to obtain the maximum economic benefit from the available water power resources, the board's conventional hydro stations have been designed to operate for a limited number of hours per day to meet the variations in normal electricity demand as opposed to the aluminium smelting industry's need for a continuous 24-hour supply.

Yours etc,
JOHN KIRKILL,
Chairman, North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board,
16 Rothessy Terrace,
Edinburgh.

Music's death?

From Mr Roger Steptoe.
Sir, In his letter of despair, published today (January 9), Mr Mulford's closing questions must surely be written to provoke further correspondence.

As a British composer and teacher of composition who is fortunate to derive an income from works written, I am closely involved and concerned with the state of music today. Never before has there been so much music written in so many different styles, following the large number of "schools" of compositional procedure now available either derived from study of established composers of this century (mainly through scores and writings on their work) or teachings and influences of composers associated with today's living here or abroad.

Over the past twenty or so years, the increase of grants and scholarships available to composers seeking further study has increased, enabling composers of this country to learn more of the current European trends. This has obviously contributed to the furthering of our own musical heritage.

Mr Mulford asks, "Is there no hope?" The answer does not warrant a concise account of the qualities of many living composers, or indeed of the work of composers of this century in this country alone (the names of Vaughan Williams, Britten, Tippett, Walton, Bush spring to mind) but rather a plea from those active in music today directed to the concert-going public (of which I presume Mr Mulford is a member). With confidence, faith and a certain sense of loyalty and adventurousness, to go to concerts with twentieth century music in the programmes, support orchestras and promoters who in their own boldness put on these works. Otherwise how can the music be

cussed. Is she copy typing from fairly clean copy? If she is, her estimated production is inordinately low. However, if she is transcribing her own shorthand or from audio dictation, a 24 "notional" words per minute transcribing speed, while not very high, is respectable.

Without more information one may be unfair but, on the face of it, this formula could have been devised by a committee of luddite trade unionists seeking to provide more jobs for one-handed keyboard operators. Office staff of all kinds is extremely expensive; at this rate we may expect even "unsmat" machines to take over.

Yours faithfully,
P.C. BLONCOURT, Chairman,
General Council,
Independent Secretarial Training Association,
16 Marlborough Crescent, W4.

A secretary's lot

From Mrs P.C. Blom-Cooper.
Sir, The article "Setting the work rate" (January 9), by Ian Murray on January 9, seems to require some clarification. If the "notional" word of five strokes, usually employed for calculating typing speeds, is used, then 120 strokes per minute, or 24 words, is the standard. On the other hand, the 480 minutes typing day seems rather high. Does the girl not have a lunch break? Strokes per page seems to be low, presumably because she is using double spacing only and, so to speak, typing half-a-page. With this per cent reduction built in for other things she has to do, she is, on this reckoning, providing only 12 full pages of typing a day.

It is not clear, either, whether a copy typist or a shorthand or audio secretary is being dis-

Hydro power

From Lord Kirkhill.
Sir, I feel it incumbent upon me to comment on the views expressed by Rear-Admiral Dunbar-Nasmith, Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, in his letter to you published on January 13.

First of all, it goes without saying that the hydro board regrets as much as anyone else the loss of its major consumer, the British Aluminium Company's smelter at Invergordon.

As important, however, are one or two aspects of his letter that do not quite reconcile with the statutory position of the hydro board. For example, it is not accurate to say that the hydro board acquired a monopoly of developing the hydro resources of the Highlands.

By the same Act that established the board in 1943 (before the nationalisation of the electricity supply industry in 1948) provision was made for private generation operated by water power subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Again, Rear-Admiral Dunbar-Nasmith quotes the hydro board's

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Yours etc,
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Chairman, North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board,
16 Rothessy Terrace,
Edinburgh.

could be in danger of deploring such a visit — churchly and unloving as that might seem.

But fundamental Christian issues are at stake here; and non-Roman Christians would want to emphasise that "there is One God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Timothy II 5 and 6, RSV). From this follows the truth that Christ Jesus alone is the Head of His Church, and neither an earthly Pope nor the Virgin Mary herself can stand between Christ and His Church.

But simply to welcome the Pope, with papal claims unabated, could equally appear an implicit denial of our Christian Anglican inheritance. We must surely state, humbly but unequivocally, that right back to the English bishops who attended the Synod of Arles in AD 314, and before the Reformation, and before the Norman Conquest, and even before Augustine's Mission, the Virgin Mary herself and the Anglican church of this land, together with its sister Celtic churches in these islands. The Pope should know, beyond any peradventure, that it is to such a church and such a nation that he comes.

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MAURICE NORVICK,
The Bishop's House,
Norwich.
January 14.

ILEA representation

From the Director General of the Health Education Council.
Sir, In your Science Report this morning (January 12) it is stated, in error, that an infestation by *Vinechus* bugs in the observatory at La Silla in Chile poses a risk of European astronomers, who work there, contracting sleeping sickness as a consequence of infection by *Trypanosoma cruzi*, of which the bug is a vector.

Chagas' disease, which is caused by *T. cruzi*, is characterised by serious and sometimes lethal results of involvement of nerve ganglia in structures such as the heart, oesophagus and other parts of the gastro-intestinal tract. It is endemic in Chile, Brazil and other parts of South America. Preventive measures currently offer the only means of dealing with this disease.

The trypanosomes which cause sleeping sickness are found in the area of the African continent inhabited by the tsetse fly and are designated *rhodesiense* and *gambiense*. Infection with any of these organisms is clearly best avoided. Any sleepiness of astronomers in Chile is more likely to be due to the nocturnal nature of the job than to organic disease, though they might be running the risk of contracting cardiac or gastro intestinal diseases.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH B. TAYLOR,
Health Education Council,
78 New Oxford Street, WC1.
January 12.

Swing together

From Mr A. D. Hewlett.
Sir, In discussing the subject of cohabitation, could those concerned please spare us the currency of the appalling word "cohabitate"? Isn't it realised that words ending in -ee are essentially passive participles (forgive my grammar!) in "employee"? People who cohabit are "cohabitators", or, better still, on the analogy of "inhabitant", they truly are "cohabitants".

There you are — that is quite a good word and I present it to the social services professionals for nothing.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. HEWLETT,
Hillcrest,
Ringwood, Deal.
January 7.

Proper names

From Sir Herbert Durkin.
Sir, The ignorance of word processors on matters of style and title can be an advantage since it often identifies the unsolicited (and unwanted) correspondence. Thus to me "Dear Sir Durkin" gives an automatic, routing to the w.p.b.

But I treasure the letter addressed to H. Durkin Esq. which begins "Dear Mr. Esq. You have been specially selected from the inhabitants of Northwood to receive etc."

Yours sincerely,
HERBERT DURKIN,
Willowbank,
Drakes Drive,
Northwood,
Middlesex.
January 13

Poland's super-rich, a target for the puritans

Warsaw In the Warsaw suburb of Zoliborz, Poland's super-rich have been running scared for the past month of martial law. The Maseratis and BMWs have disappeared from the driveways to be replaced by humble battered Polski Fiats with souped-up engines, and there is a weary, hunted look about the owners. The military leadership has been accused of corruption as it is to the activities of Solidarity — and that is bad news for Poland's zloty millionaires.

It is a truism that Poland is two nations — the rich and the poor, the scared and the secure, the ambitious and apathetic — but the truism is worth repeating because the country seems to have become synonymous with poverty. Poverty here is ostentatious and shouts for attention: the queues that form and reform like diagrams in the snow, the miles of empty shop shelving, the girl encountered this week who suddenly started to cry in the middle of a conversation because she had just realized she could not afford to repair her only pair of winter boots. She earns just over 5,000 zloties a month; the cobbler wants 1,200 — two months' savings for an element of leather.

Wealth, by contrast, is discreet, whispering its presence. In Zoliborz, by no means the only suburb with rich people, there is a street that would not be out of place in St. Moritz. The houses have four or five storeys with an underground garage that can and usually does shelter three western cars. Behind in the sprawling gardens there are swimming pools, covered up for the winter. Every house is privately owned, one by a professor working in Nairobi, another by a businessman of Polish descent who returned to the homeland from the United States and clung to the idea of capitalism in Scandinavia. A former naval officer at the end of the street sells Mercedes to his neighbours. Opposite is a senior policeman, perhaps secret, but nobody feels any the safer for his presence.

The Military Council is not anti-wealth, though the wife of General Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister drives a modest Green Polski Fiat — but it is determined to purify the party. For some time party power and wealth have been interchangeable terms. To be in the central committee was usually to be rich.

Life was made easier and privilege began to flourish. The key to access to hard currency: during the 1970s it was never difficult for a central committee member. A respected university figure or members of travel in the West, to earn dollars by lecturing or by wise exchange deals. Hard currency accounts were legal and the ebb and flow of transfers from West to East must have had a substantial impact on the country's current account.

With dollars, it was and is possible to buy the trappings of privilege. For \$60 a Polish tailor will run up a good tweed suit. But for zloties, the suit is unobtainable: the tailor needs at least some dollars to buy the material in the first place.

The discovery of the dollar as a second currency is not confined to the wealthy. The state has opened up special hard currency stores, known

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as Pewex, where goods not available in the system — even staples such as toothpaste and tissue paper — are sold to ordinary Poles. But it is the people who have combined party influence with access to travel and hard currency earnings who have become the zloty millionaires. They might be city party chiefs, *voivodes* as they are known, museum directors or conductors.

The intertwining of party with wealth became particularly apparent in the Giersek era. It was popular repugnance with this that contributed to the anger of 1980 and created the groundwork of support for Solidarity.

The Military Council has been eager to put on trial Mr Macej Szczepanski, the chairman of Polish television

under Mr Giersek, to demonstrate that while it is crushing Solidarity as an opposing force it is also taking over one of Solidarity's main causes — the abolition of privilege. It hopes, moreover, to mobilize envy to deflect the people's attention from the staples out of Solidarity. Whether all this is achieved, will be sufficient to rebuild trust in the party, remains to be seen. But one thing is certain: nobody who built up his wealth on the basis of his party position is safe.

The Polish press has carried colourful stories of Mr Szczepanski's seven cars and three mistresses, and his manner in his opening speech in court last week hardly served him well. "I am not ashamed of having earned money or having served my party," he said. Yes, he had a yacht; yes, it was bought with state funds. But he was hired out to foreigners in some months and earned the country hard currency; in other months it was lent out to naval cadets.

"Poland's economic problems are not the result of yachts and cars," he said, "but ignorance of the principles of Marxism-Leninism." However, unfortunately the phrasing, Mr Szczepanski's main defence (he is charged with taking bribes and misappropriating millions of zloties worth of state property) is one that many of the zloty millionaires would adopt. Poland decided on a course of import-led growth during the 1970s to raise the living standards of the people and rapidly industrialize the country. To do this, needed a middleman (like Mr Szczepanski, who approved many film coproductions with the West) who could arrange the appropriate deals. The fact that the policy failed and that Poland sank under the weight of unmanageable debt is not the fault of the middlemen, the new rich.

That is Mr Szczepanski's case, but there is a puritan intensity to the Military Council's drive. The party must be purged of its associations with the Giersek years and purged of the corrupt hangers-on and the medium ranking and obstructive bureaucracy who will fight against any economic reform that threatens their positions.

It must be emphasized that the possession of certain party privileges is not illegal. Just before the eruption of martial law, Solidarity ana-

lysed the perks received by what it called the "power elite" — broadly speaking ministers, central committee members and university rectors. These include:

- Free cars and flats, income from all types of copyright (eg for the publication of public statements) and presents. These include the "envelope enclosure" system by which large sums of money are handed over on national holidays and special "name days" presents are made to the elite and their wives.
- Some officials have the power to decree which western companies can acquire a monopoly of services to Poland and this brings with it many bonuses, apart from the illegal possibility of commissions or bribes. Many members of the hierarchy are, for example, through this could change under martial law.
- Members of the elite have — or had under Mr Giersek — the power to stipulate what should be allocated cooperatively built houses. These houses can be bought cheaply and then resold at a profit to the cooperative.
- The state used to have the legal right to buy up houses and villas, put them up for auction and then inform only one bidder.
- Some members of the elite are allowed to borrow state treasures indefinitely — Mrs Giersek has been accused of doing this — to furnish their homes. State labour is sometimes used to build private houses and maintain estates.
- About 60 Poles are made available free of charge to leading politicians for private use. They are described as "test" vehicles, which means that the factory makes them for repairs and petrol. When the car breaks down the VIP receives a new one.

There is a whole supporting network of privilege: holiday centres, special shops, facilities, government clinics. Even the children of the party elite get special treatment.

Many of the privileges will stay — indeed the Military Council almost certainly benefits from many of them — but party chiefs will become more accountable. And the businessmen who have made a living out of selling Mercedes to the most senior of the party faithful may well have a rude shock awaiting them.

Roger Boyes

Tom Paine's Welsh friend

Tonight BBC2 will screen *The Most Valuable Englishman Ever*, a life of Thomas Paine, the American revolutionary. It is the latest film biography by Kenneth Griffith, who explains to John Heilpern his personal approach to history.

Kenneth Griffith, a man of Celtic fervour, is the popular character actor and amateur historian who transformed the possibilities of documentary films for television. Even the more conventional work of Lord Clark and Alistair Cooke owes a debt to Mr Griffith, though there is no one quite like him.

His seductive approach to television and re-creating the past is that of the enthusiastic story-teller who acts out every part himself. It has been well said that, upon seeing his apparently encyclopaedic films, one is persuaded that he could play — or would like to play — *Gone With the Wind* single-handed. As only an actor is able to do, as opposed to an academic, he gets into flesh and bones of historical figures, making them accessible and human. His special contribution to documentary films is that he is able to conjure up the feel and smell of momentous events in history while cheekily giving us the impression that he was somehow there at the time.

He treats his audience in a conspiratorial manner, like a confidant. He buttonholes, cajoles, pleads and dramatizes his point of view, whether as Cecil Rhodes or Napoleon or the misunderstood hero whom Michael Foot describes as the greatest exile ever driven from our shores, Thomas Paine.

In each film, Mr Griffith is incapable of being either objective or dull. To the irritation of some purists, he is a passionate layman. As this paper noted about his films a decade ago, Mr Griffith is a man who is quite magnificently and enjoyably biased.

Odd perhaps, that the BBC should have therefore given him his first opportunity to make documentaries, though for all its stress on balance and objectivity the BBC has engaged nonconformists. It was Huw Wheldon and David Attenborough, then Managing Director and Controller of BBC 2 respectively, who asked him to make his first film in 1968 — quite an act of faith. Griffith has no experience of documentary film-making.

He was, and he still is, a successful film actor best known for cameo roles in British comedies as the creepy don and organizer in *Lucky Jim*, for example, or, in more than 100 other film appearances, as various neurotics and evil men, sometimes with a troubled conscience. His character parts have made him a reasonable



Kenneth Griffith "magnificently and enjoyably biased"

living. They fill him with a certain bitterness about an unfulfilled serious acting career. "You see," he points out in his intense way, "the problem with being an actor is that you have to be employed."

David Attenborough at the BBC knew, however, of Griffith's private fascination with history and the Boer War, and he liked the way he communicated his ideas. This is a paper noted about his films a decade ago, Mr Griffith is a man who is quite magnificently and enjoyably biased.

How he did so owes something to the theatricality of Guthrie, his mentor, whom he idolized. This is how Griffith describes it: "David Attenborough had said to me: 'Go anywhere! Communicate your enthusiasm.' I had nothing to lose. But on the plane to South Africa I was reading the script carefully and I knew it was too conventional. It was just like all the other BBC documentaries. It was good, but it had nothing to do with me. So I told the director, making an enemy for life of course. He's a most skilful director today, by the way. But I had to tell him: 'I know how this film must start!'

"The director looked at me and said: 'How do you mean?' I said: 'The film must start with an aerial shot travelling from east to west along the savage Tugela River, which is the line of demarcation between the Boers in the mountains on the north and the British on the flatland in the South.' The director said, 'Yes?'

"Then, I explained, 'As the camera moves slowly along this savage river, it isolates a tiny human figure climbing up the side of one of the rugged mountains. Mel! The rugged mountain will be the Spion Kop and all the viewer will see at first is my legs. Then the first words you hear will be me saying: 'In Liverpool Football Ground, there is a very large grandstand that can hold thousands of men!'

"If you ask those men in Liverpool the name of the grandstand, the voice-over will continue, 'They'll tell you, the Kop. But if you ask them *Why?* they won't be able to tell you. But I'll tell you. The grandstand is named after this mountain I am climbing here in South Africa in the old British colony of Natal. Question: *Why?* Thereby hangs a strange and terrible story. This is my story. The director or hated me. But that's how we did it."

The reason, incidentally, the Liverpool grandstand is named after the mountain is

because the Lancashire Brigade fought on Spion Kop and died there. The Kop in Liverpool, Mr Griffith surmises, is a "Mountain of Men" and veteran survivors of the battle of Spion Kop must have nicknamed it accordingly.

Kenneth Griffith was born in the small town of Tenby on the Pembrokeshire coast in 1921. At six months of age, he was left by his parents in the care of his paternal grandparents, "singularly good people", he says, who brought him up. His grandfather was a stonemason. His childhood was lonely and sheltered: a combination of poverty and academic disaster.

The young Griffith had one special gift, however. Entering grammar school via what he genuinely believes was a bureaucratic error, he found he could sight-read Shakespeare almost as well as he can today. It was an enormous relief for him to be able to escape into the roles he played in school plays. He knew he could impress people.

Nevertheless, at 15, he became an assistant to an ironmonger in Cambridge, a Dickensian nightmare for him. But for the first time in his life, he was in a city that had a theatre — the old Festival Theatre where Guthrie had appeared. He changed his luck and went to audition for the producer. It was the first time he had even visited a theatre.

He was to become a protégé of Tyrone Guthrie, and it was his tour of South Africa in Guthrie's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which led indirectly to his first documentary film. As a child, Griffith had become an avid stamp collector. Stamps, like the theatre, were an exotic escapism world to him. In South Africa, his interest developed into the postal history of the Boer War.

This unusual hobby, a form of occupational therapy, enables Mr Griffith actually to reconstruct and tell the story of the war through its postal history. Its envelopes and letters, for example, a British soldier fighting in South Africa from 1899 to 1902 did not use a South African stamp but a British stamp, most commonly the penny black. Having broken the security marks, Mr Griffith is able to deduce where the letter was posted and which soldier posted it. In this way he pursues ghosts of the past, making history tangible for him.

His extensive collection of 13,000 Boer War documents is carefully indexed and filed on the top floor of his London home. A self-educated man, his working library of some 7,000 books consists mostly of history and biography. He lives in a large Victorian house in Islington: a private fortress devoted to research and to his own contentment.

Off screen, Kenneth Griffith could strike you as an introspective man, a worrier, easily troubled by life. At the same time, he enjoys people and debate, can explode with rage and disenchantment, and is known for his generosity to friends. (Peter O'Toole is a life-long chum.)

Now aged 60, his life has not been serene. But it is surely being interesting. Professionally he has had his fights and troubles. His 1972 film about Michael Collins and Ireland has never been shown. Even today some television producers still distrust the idea that an actor can make serious documentaries, rather as some people still believe that all actresses are promiscuous.

Mr Griffith is a most riveting original talent. *The Most Valuable Englishman Ever* is his sixteenth film for television. Long may he continue to make them.

His career as a film maker

Soldiers of the Widow For David Attenborough and Huw Wheldon, on the siege and relief of Ladysmith.

A Touch of Churchill, a Touch of Hitler A life of Cecil Rhodes. Alternative title, *Turn Me Over, Jack*.

Some of the Blood Four films on the survivors of the Anglo-Boer War.

Keep Pretoria Clean About black South African rubbish collectors.

The Man on the Rock About Napoleon's final six years on St Helena.

Suddenly an Eagle To celebrate the bicentenary of the American War of Independence, for US Television, winner of the Peabody Award. "The worst film I ever made. Changed by them."

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death Remake of the above for BBC Omnibus.

Hang Out Your Brightest Colours On the life and death of Michael Collins, the IRA leader during the Anglo-Irish War. For Low Grade, Suppressed by the IRA.

The Public's Right to Know About the failure to make a film about Benbow Powell in the siege of Mafeking due to an ACTT ban on travelling to South Africa — and on the banning of the Collins film.

Black as Hell, Thick as Grass On the 24th Regiment, the South Wales Borderers in the Zulu War 1879.

The Sun's Bright Child The life of Edmund Kean, the actor, used as an attack on institutional theatres.

The Most Valuable Englishman Ever The life of Thomas Paine.

That bank bid: Mr Biffen strikes a balance

Setting government department against government department and Scot against Scot, with the Bank of England fighting for its prestige and power, the battle over the Royal Bank of Scotland has raised issues far transcending the important strategic objectives of the three banks involved.

By deciding to block both takeover bids, the Government has not only quashed what promised to be the biggest takeover bid ever in this country — the final price placed on Royal Bank of Scotland would probably have been about £600m. It has also put paid to what would have been the most important shake-up in British banking since the late 1960s, when a rash of mergers led to the formation of, for instance, National Westminster and Barclays in its present form.

From the moment when Standard Chartered opened the bidding for Royal Bank last March, it has been clear that a takeover would provide a welcome boost to British banking by creating a fifth force to challenge the present big clearing banks, Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and National Westminster.

However much they try to

publicize their differences and to compete with one another, the big four are still seen by the public as large amorphous national institutions more similar than their similarities. Government restrictions have limited the extent to which they can compete, but they have been slow to innovate. Long-term lending to industry is an example where it took the aggressive competition from American banks to stir them into action. They have yet to follow the recent initiative of the small Co-op Bank in introducing interest-bearing current accounts.

Dominating much of the debate, however, has been the question of the power of the Bank of England and its Governor, Mr Gordon Richardson, who placed his authority on the line by backing the Standard Chartered bid and then making no secret of his opposition to any takeover attempt by the buccannery Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

In a series of meetings with the tough, energetic Mr Michael Sandberg, chairman of Hongkong and Shanghai, Mr Richardson made clear that he did not want the colonial-based bank to enter the fray. That should have been the end of it. But

whereas the clearing banks are used to obeying the oblique hints which emanate from the Bank of England, Mr Sandberg decided to go ahead.

Because it is accustomed to approving bank mergers and because it largely regulates the British banking system on an informal and non-statutory basis, the Bank of England saw the Hongkong and Shanghai action as threatening to undermine its authority. Once one bank ignores informal nods and winks, others might follow.

At issue too has been the question of whether control of an important clearing bank should be allowed to pass overseas. Although small in comparison to the big four, Royal Bank of Scotland ranks with the biggest American or German banks in terms of its market share of deposits; the Bank of England and others have argued that its strategic national importance is such that it should not be owned by a bank like Hongkong and Shanghai, which is not governed by a central bank and which might not always have the best interests of the British economy at heart.

The Bank of England was also concerned that a takeover of Royal Bank by Hongkong and

Shanghai might be followed by a bid for one of the smaller of the big four such as Lloyds or Midland — and in November the Governor lobbied unsuccessfully for legislation to give the Bank special powers to block foreign takeovers.

Besides the national issues exposed by the Governor, Whitehall and government ministers have had their own fears.

The Foreign Office and Department of Trade oppose the Bank of England's attitude, which they see as narrow-minded, likely to damage overseas trading links and invite retaliation. Hongkong, for instance, is an important market for British contractors who often have a head start in winning business because of the colonial link. Hongkong is also the gateway to China, and there have been fears that after the row caused in Hongkong by the Nationality Act, a rebuff for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank could harm business with the colony.

The Foreign Office position was boldly illustrated in November when Mr Humphrey Atkins, Lord Privy Seal, told Parliament unequivocally that Hongkong and

Shanghai was not a foreign bank, thereby snubbing Mr Richardson, who had let it be known he thought otherwise.

Meanwhile the Scottish Office fought to block both bids. Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, is thought to have been increasingly swayed by the strong Scottish lobby trying to preserve the independence of one of Scotland's major financial institutions.

The Trade Secretary, Mr John Biffen, could have rejected the Monopolies Commission's vetoes but there is no precedent for the Government doing this in the case of a merger recommendation, and he is thought to have felt that his hand was forced anyway by the leaking of the commission's report.

His decision is of crucial importance in determining how British banking evolves in the years ahead, and there is no doubt that a major opportunity to increase competition has been missed. Indeed there must now be a question-mark over the suitability of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to judge the public interest in such matters.

Peter Wilson-Smith

Geoffrey Smith

Have the Tories had enough of their public blood-letting?

Parliament will resume next week in a political climate that has subtly changed. For the first time for a long while there are some signs of encouragement for the Conservatives. This can be seen most clearly in the condition of the Cabinet itself.

Throughout its life this has been the most divided Conservative Cabinet since early this century. There have been fundamental disagreements over policy and much personal bitterness as well. The collective loyalty that enabled previous Conservative administrations to contain their policy differences without resort to open political warfare has been noticeably lacking this time.

Now a change can be discerned. The disagreements remain as deep as ever, as it would be an exaggeration to claim that the different wings of the Cabinet have come to like each other. But they are learning to live with their disagreements. The conflict over public expenditure last autumn illustrated this and may come to be seen as a turning-point in the Govern-

ment's career. The wets have accepted that the Government will remain under dry leadership, and the dries have acknowledged that they cannot get approval for all the policies they would like.

Mrs Thatcher made it clear in her radio interview on *The World This Week* last Sunday that she would have cut public expenditure more severely if her party would have let her. There is nothing new in that. She would have liked to secure deeper cuts than have been achieved every year since she came to office. What was different last autumn was that she accepted fairly early on that she could not get the cuts she wanted. For once the Cabinet did not tear itself apart over public expenditure.

With luck, there should be much less of the public blood-letting that has been so damaging to Conservative morale and the backbenches. The new coalition may be only on the surface, but surface matters quite a bit in politics. Maintaining appearances

by the Cabinet should eventually have its effect on the backbenches.

Most of them returned to their constituencies for their Christmas recess feeling dispirited, and many still fear for their seats at the next election. But there are two other reasons, apart from the improved condition of the Cabinet, for them to cheer up a bit. A number of them have been finding that the companies in their constituencies are now making higher profits. This is due to the fact that the economy is on the way up and that unemployment is about to plunge, but it has encouraged their hopes that the worst may be over.

A smile may also be playing around a few Conservative lips at the sight of the Social Democrats' dislike of adversarial politics. Does not stop them putting the boot into each other. The Conservatives have come increasingly to see the Alliance as their principal opponents at the next election, and they have been somewhat unmoved by what has seemed to

be the magic touch of the new grouping. At every stage so far the Social Democrats and their Liberal allies have done better than had been expected, so this evidence of fallibility is a relief to Conservative eyes.

They do not pin too many hopes on it, believing that the Alliance will in due course sort out its squabbles over seats. Some Tory MPs, however, think that the conflict will not be resolved in a few constituencies, and that bitterness between the partners will remain in several others. It is enough to provide just that bit of extra encouragement to beleaguered Conservatives.

But will these signs of hope, modest as they are, be swept aside once Parliament is under way again? The legislative hazards should not be too daunting. Mr Tebbit's industrial relations reforms do not go far enough to satisfy the right, but he should be able to stave off their frustrations — though he may well be embarrassed by the SDP

demand that trade union members should have to contract in before paying the political levy. Now that Mr Heseltine is no longer proposing to refer to endowments, his local authority Bill should not cause too much trouble. There is a good deal of dissatisfaction over the rate support grant, which a number of Conservative MPs believe will squeeze education and other services to a dangerous extent in some areas. But the impact is unlikely to be sufficiently uniform to create a major crisis.

There is naturally anxiety about the new, but this is not a question that seems to divide the party at this stage. The principal test of Tory cohesion that is clearly looming is the Budget. Last year's Budget provoked the loudest bitter Cabinet divisions in the lifetime of this Government — partly because of what the Chancellor proposed, and partly because his proposals came as a complete surprise to most of his colleagues.

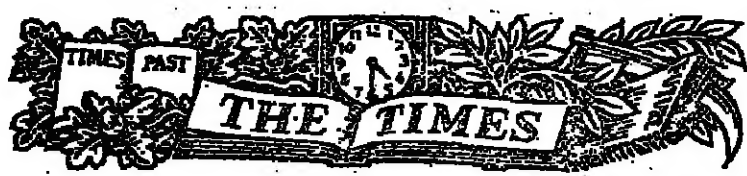
It is now intended that the Cabinet should for the first time have the opportunity to discuss the broad strategy before Sir Geoffrey draws up the Budget. This does not mean that the Cabinet collectively will determine the strategy. The idea is that other Ministers should simply have the chance to put their views in the Chancellor in good time. But if anything like a consensus emerges, Sir Geoffrey will know that he will be courting conflict if he ignores it.

The critical issue will be whether the public sector borrowing requirement should be allowed to rise by £2,000m to £3,000m, which is sought by a number of ministers, including Mr Prior, Mr Pym, Mr Walker and Mr Nicholas Edwards. Though there will be resistance to this from within No 10, it looks good time. But if anything like a consensus emerges, Sir Geoffrey will know that he will be courting conflict if he ignores it.

If they do, there will be the second question of how the extra money should be used: to help industry or on tax concessions to

individuals? Many backbenchers, and some ministers, will be anxious that the Chancellor should take the opportunity to uprate unemployment and other short-term social security benefits fully in line with inflation — not by 2 per cent less, as was announced last month as part of the public expenditure cutting exercise. If Sir Geoffrey does not restore that cut, the Labour Party expects to be able to force a vote of the issue by an amendment at the report stage to the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill — a vote that would be distinctly awkward for the Government.

If the Government emerges from the Budget in reasonably good order, without ministers being once again at each other's throats, it should be better equipped for the political fray than at any time since its first year in office. Even then, it would by no means be assured of electoral success. But it is too soon to follow the fashionable judgment and write this off as a doomed administration.



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THE BIG BANK MUDDLE

The majority recommendation of the Monopolies Commission to turn down both bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Trade Secretary's decision to accept the recommendations, are understandable but wrong. They are understandable because neither Minister nor Commission were likely to relish allowing a seriously undermined position of the Bank of England and offended vociferous elements of Scottish feeling. They are wrong because the grounds chosen for the rejection — that the bids would have removed decision-making from Scotland and would make British banking vulnerable to foreign decisions — are stated so as to sidestep the basic issues not to tackle them.

Even if one accepted the prominence given to the arguments for retaining an independent Scottish banking force, the fact is that the directors of the bank in this case sought themselves a merger with an international partner because they felt it necessary for the future prosperity of the Royal Bank. To reject their view still leaves the Royal Bank with all the problems that brought it to seek a merger in the first place, only now it faces a future with a divided management and a confused staff — all the more so as more than half the Royal Bank's profits come from its London-based Williams and Glyn's subsidiary.

The report is also evasive in that, while snuffing at the more fundamental issues of competition in the British banking system and the traditional methods of informal control by the Bank of England, it then promptly retreats from them. As the dissenting Mr. R. G. Smethurst argues, the most important consideration is one of competition. And it is an element on which the Commission, while worrying much about the removal of control from Scotland to abroad, puts remarkably little emphasis. Yet the question of allowing foreign take-overs is inseparable from the issue of whether they will bring benefits in greater competition.

Few looking at the British banking scene at present, in Scotland or in the rest of the British Isles, can feel that the clearing banks would not benefit from new blood, still less when the banking profits made by the British clearers from the domestic market have been used so extensively to seek purchases of foreign banks in the U.S. or elsewhere. To say, as the Commission does, that it is not opposed to foreign ownership in principle but just this particular one in practice is simply a way of ducking the issue. It leaves all British banks theoretically vulnerable to a foreign take-over whilst denying it in this case.

Even greater uncertainty does the Commission report leave on the issue of banking control — the heart of the Bank of England's objections

to the Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation's bid. The Governor of the Bank of England had wanted to retain a system that effectively closed the industry to foreign bids without stating so in legislation and discreetly controlled the action of banks through the nod-and-the-wink. The Commission has supported the Governor's particular objection to Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation. But it has not upheld the informal system of control that he was championing.

So where can the various parties go from here? The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will presumably retire to consider new approaches to take-overs both here and in Europe. Standard and Chartered will now have to look again at how it can move away from its current dependence on South Africa. The poor old Royal Bank will have to move fast to restore morale in its staff, to reconsider the position of the directors most committed to a merger and to find alternative ways of providing the international service which its customers are felt to want. Most sensitively of all, the Bank of England and the Government will now have to consider what they can do to restore some system of direction, through legislation or the publication of new guidelines.

And in this sorry tale of postponed decisions, it will be the customer who, as usual, loses.

FAIR DEALING IN FINE ART

It is almost seven years since Sotheby's and Christie's introduced a buyers' premium charge at their London auctions, but the opponents of the scheme, notably the art dealing fraternity, are even more vociferous today than they were at the start. A law suit brought over premium by the two major dealers' associations against the auctioneers was settled out of court in September, but the Office of Fair Trading is still looking into their allegations: that Sotheby's and Christie's colluded over the introduction of premium in 1975.

The Society of London Art Dealers has now at last agreed to make available to the director of fair trading the evidence it has compiled bearing on the issue without which it would have been difficult to proceed. But confusion has always been a side issue. It just happens to be the only point over which the auctioneers appear to be attackable at law. The central issue, for the public as much as the dealers, is whether any charge to auction buyers should be permitted at all.

The auctioneers are sellers' agents. Until 1975 they took commission only from sellers. It would be quite unethical for them to act for both sides in a transaction, so why make a charge to buyers? The

auctioneers hasten to assure us that they are not acting for buyers, merely charging them a premium. It does not sound correct. Indeed, it is not correct.

The decision to introduce premium was taken on purely commercial grounds. The market had struck a bad recession in 1973-74 and the auctioneers desperately needed to boost their income. On cheaper lots they were already charging 15 per cent (compared to only 7½ per cent before the war) and they feared that raising it to 18 or 20 per cent would scare away sellers. Both houses had recently begun to hold sales in Europe, in Geneva, Amsterdam and Florence, and had been struck by how much more profitable their sales proved when they followed the European practice of charging buyers as well as sellers. They had also been made aware of its advantages in treating with sellers; you could offer to reduce your commission, to zero if necessary, strong in the knowledge that you would be collecting a fixed percentage from buyers.

Thus the auctioneers decided to introduce premium to London, essentially as a means of obscuring the fact that they were raising their charges. It has proved highly advantageous from the auc-

tioners' point of view and has been re-exported from London to New York, where Sotheby's and Christie's also dominate the auction scene. Indeed, Sotheby's and Christie's together now hold a near duopoly position in fine art auctioneering world wide. This generates large profits but also entails responsibilities.

Premium is essentially a shoddy means of making the vendor believe that the auctioneer is taking a smaller cut on the sale of his goods than is in fact the case. The fact that European auctioneers traditionally made such a charge does not make the little deception any less shoddy. It was an abuse, even if a minor one, of the auctioneers' vast power in the art market that they forced the charge on Britain. It is a stain, even if a slight one, on Britain's reputation for fair dealing that they forced the charge on America.

It would be good for the auctioneers' reputation, Britain's reputation and the smooth running of the international art market if they returned to the straight forward practice of charging their clients only. It would be good if Mr Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, the art dealers, or the legislature could persuade them to do so.

IT'S ALL GREEK TO US

There is nothing like a debate over spelling for raising the blood pressure of purists and pedants the world over. The Greeks know this as well as anyone because they have been quarrelling over the proper way, not just of writing their language, but even of speaking it for the best part of two centuries. And the disputes are not over yet. At the bidding of the new Socialist government Parliament has just adopted legislation which will abolish the present system of accents. A system which was first introduced more than two thousand years ago, by the Alexandrians of the Hellenistic period, has thus been done away with in a brief amendment to an education bill, adopted in the early hours of the morning. No wonder the opposition walked out in protest.

Greek, after all, is not like some parvenu tongue of northern Europe. Its roots go back to the second millennium BC, when it was written down in Linear B, a script found on clay tablets from Knossos and elsewhere. It did

not have accents then, however, nor did it have them in the classical period, when a script much like the one in use today had been introduced, courtesy of the Phoenicians. The accents — grave, acute and a sort of semi-circular hoop — were introduced by the Alexandrians as a way of marking the stressed syllables; and the rules were complex enough to cause difficulties for generations of Greek schoolchildren, not to mention those learning Greek, both ancient and modern, in other countries.

Now the Greek Government proposes to simplify all this. Instead of three different accents, there will be only one — possibly a little triangular shape already used by some newspapers. Mr Vervakis, the Minister of Education, confidently estimates that the changes will save the average Greek schoolchild 6,000 hours of work; and that the cost of typing will be reduced by 40 per cent.

The opposition say that

they do not contest these advantages, only the haste with which it is all being rushed through. Nor are they well placed to protest too much. They themselves, when they were in power, were responsible for another historic move, when they abandoned the official use of "purist" Greek in favour of "demotic". Purist Greek is an artificial language, composed in the years before Greek independence in an attempt to revive the speech of classical times, and given official standing. Demotic, which is essentially the spoken tongue, is now in the ascendant, and will be given the new, single-accent system.

There is more in this than grammar. Purist Greek is thought to indicate someone of right inclinations and the demotic to be the mark of the left; these days some supporters of the Government are provoking their opponents by using ultra-demotic forms on television and radio. How convenient it would be if syntax and sound were political giveaways in a fractional but rather more furtive Britain.

However, I am also aware, and as a distinguished lawyer, Mr Blom-Cooper ought to be aware, that Lord Edmund Davies, the law lord, came to a very different conclusion in the 1979 case of *Customs and Excise v Menocal* (vol 69, Criminal Appeal Reports, pp 166, 167).

He said specifically that section 11(2) should be widely interpreted, notwithstanding an earlier decision of a Court of Appeal.

That means there are strong grounds for suggesting that it is

possible for the judge to reconsider his sentence.

However, I am much less concerned with one particular case than with its implications for the future. And today's statement by the Lord Chief Justice will undoubtedly ensure that future sentences will suit the gravity of the crime of rape.

Yours, etc.
JACK ASHLEY,
House of Commons.
January 15.

Reconsidered sentences

From Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP for Stoke on Trent, South (Labour).
Sir, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, was quite wrong in saying (January 15) that I did not know of the Court of Appeal's decision in 1978 that section 11(2) of the Courts Act 1971 should be narrowly interpreted, using it for slips of the tongue or memory and not for important changes in a sentence. I was well aware of this as it is quoted by many lawyers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Effects of abolition of corporation tax

From Mr Basil de Ferranti, MEP for Hampshire West (Conservative) and Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, MP for Kensington (Conservative) and MEP for London South East (Conservative).
Sir, The Government's Green Paper on corporation tax starts with the premise that the tax is here to stay. However, the evidence presented in the Green Paper can only lead to the conclusion that the tax should be abolished.

Of course, companies should continue to act as servants of the Inland Revenue by collecting income tax on dividends paid to stockholders via the medium of the misnamed advance corporation tax. However, the now relatively small sum raised by mainstream corporation tax could be more equitably and cheaply collected by companies for the Revenue by a minor increase in value-added tax.

The abolition of the notion that companies should be taxed like individuals would mean ensuring that there is no longer having to be remembered that individuals can build up an asset for sale now which, if realized, is taxed as a capital gain. The abolition of corporation tax would not, therefore, create a tax loophole.

However, the staff that would be released by no longer having to define a company's taxable profit according to the law, both within companies themselves, within the accountancy profession and within the Inland Revenue, could be very substantial, even after allowing for additional effort to be applied for ensuring the legitimacy of business expenses. Furthermore, an end to the inflation accounting argument would, in itself, release some very skilled effort for more productive ends.

Surely, most professional accountants would rather be involved in helping clients with real problems than with the unconstructive medium of assessing liability to tax any relief according to some commercially meaningless definition of profit.

The Green Paper uses the phrase "taxation of company income". This betrays a basic misunderstanding. All companies do is to collect tax, in effect, from the company's profits in order to cause companies to increase their prices according to their profits. Value-added tax causes companies to increase their prices in accordance with the value that they have added. The former is arbitrary and supports the inefficient, whereas the latter enables the more efficient to invest and create jobs.

The European Commission has been seeking ways of harmonizing taxes on company profits in order to simplify business decisions and avoid distortions to trade. The simple way of harmonizing corporation tax through-out Europe would be to abolish it altogether, thereby boosting businessmen's confidence and making an important contribution to lifting the European economy off the bottom of the present recession.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL DE FERRANTI,
BRANDON RHYS WILLIAMS,
Millbank Tower, SW1.
January 14.

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heard, evaluated and criticised? How can the composer learn and be recognised? Who knows, without the encouragement of the public (in their turn they also provide some form of support), how many works of composers will survive the next two years? Yours faithfully,
ROGER STEPTOE,
53, Gloucester Avenue, NW1.

From Mrs Diana Bazalgette.
Sir, In his letter of January 7, Mr Howard contests the statements of Mr Anthony Burgess on Beethoven (article, December 29).

I would like, if I may, to add that there are very many degrees between being musical and unmusical. Some people are sensitive musical and some are cerebally musical to greater or lesser degrees, as any music teacher will attest. Indeed, music teachers themselves vary considerably in the degrees of "musicality". Whatever the extent of an individual's musical gift it is, of course, no more a virtue to be musical than it is a sin to be unmusical.

From their writing on music, I would guess that Bernard Shaw, Herman Levin, and Anthony Burgess are (were) cerebally musical. They would not have written (write) as they did (do) were this not so. To be sensitively musical does not mean that the listener or performer is wallowing in lush extremes of emotion. It means that Mr Howard can apprehend the intangible heights of late Beethoven, while Mr Burgess, with his more limited musical gift, cannot. Both men will be quite happy in their own opinions, but unhappy in each other's.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA BAZALGETTE,
Cloud End, Aldington,
Ashford, Kent.

A secretary's lot

From Mrs P.C. Blomcourt.
Sir, The article "Setting the work" in the *Times* by Ian Murray on January 9, seems to require some clarification. If the "notional" word of five strokes, usually employed for calculating typing speeds, is used, then 120 strokes per minute, or 24 words, is the standard. On the other hand, the 480 minutes typing day seems rather high. Does the girl not have a lunch break? Strokes per page seems to be low, presumably because she is using double spacing only and, so to speak, typing half-a-page. With 25 per cent reduction built in for other things she has to do, she is, on this reckoning, providing only 12 full pages of typing a day.

It is not clear, either, whether a copy typist or a shorthand or audio secretary is being discussed. Is she copy typing from fairly clean copy? If she is, her estimated production is inordinately low. However, if she is transcribing her own shorthand or from audio dictation, a 24 "notional" words per minute transcribing speed, while not very high, is respectable.

Without more information one may be unfair but, on the face of it, this formula could have been devised by a committee of luddite trade unionists seeking to provide more jobs for one-handed keyboard operators. Office staff of all kinds is extremely expensive; at this rate we may expect even "unsmat" machines to take over.

Yours faithfully,
P.C. BLIMCOURT, Chairman,
General Council,
Independent Secretarial Training Association,
16 Marlborough Crescent, W4.

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could be in danger of deploring such a visit — church and unloving as that might seem. But — fundamental — Christian issues are at stake here: and non-Roman Christians would want to emphasise that "there is One God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Timothy ii 5 and 6, RV). From this follows the truth that Christ Jesus alone is the Head of His Church, and neither an earthly Pope nor the Argentin Mary herself can stand between Christ and His Church.

But simply to welcome the Pope, with papal claims unabated, could equally appear an implicit denial of our Christian Anglican inheritance. We must surely state, humbly but unequivocally, that right back to the English bishops who attended the Synod of Arles in AD 314, and before the Reformation, and before the Norman Conquest, and even before Augustine's Mission, the Church of England was the Anglican church, a historic Anglican church of this land, together with its sister Celtic churches in these islands. The Pope should know, beyond any peradventure, that it is to such a church and such a nation that he comes.

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SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will hold investitures at Buckingham Palace on January 19 and 20 and 21 and 22 and 23 and 24 and 25 and 26 and 27 and 28 and 29 and 30 and 31.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. Neville-Clarke and Miss J. K. Wylie. The engagement is announced between Sebastian, son of the late Thomas Oliver Neville-Clarke and Lady Dudley of Mulberry Walk, London, SW3, and Miss J. K. Wylie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Verner Wylie of Esher, Surrey, on January 22.

Mr C. J. E. Durrant and Miss A. M. Letham. The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S. E. Durrant of Barchings Farm, North Walsham, Norfolk, and Miss A. M. Letham, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. C. Letham, of Derwent House, Oldbaldry, Dorset, Dorset, on January 22.

Mr K. B. Fitzpatrick and Miss S. A. Stuart. The engagement is announced between Kerry, elder son of the late Mr J. A. Fitzpatrick and Mrs M. K. Rose, of St Croix, United States Virgin Islands, and Miss S. A. Stuart, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Stuart, of Hetherston, Norfolk, on January 22.

Mr M. A. F. Nehammer and Miss K. E. Openshaw. The engagement is announced between Philip Hugh, elder son of the late Mr M. W. Nehammer and Mrs M. W. Nehammer, of Little Sodbury Manor, Chipping Sodbury, Avon, and Miss K. E. Openshaw, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. J. Franklin, of North Lodge, Brill, Buckinghamshire, on January 22.

Mr M. F. Palmer and Miss C. E. Groveson. The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of the late Mr M. F. Palmer and Mrs M. Palmer, of Bedford Park, London, and Miss C. E. Groveson, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Groveson, of Overthorpe, Northamptonshire, on January 22.

Mr A. F. Thaw and Miss S. E. Thaw. The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. F. Thaw, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, and Miss S. E. Thaw, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Thaw, of The Old Manor, Naughton, Suffolk, on January 22.

Mr D. J. Wilson and Miss M. J. Howson. The engagement is announced between David, second son of Mr and Mrs D. J. Wilson, of Surrey, and Miss M. J. Howson, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Howson, of Polstead Hill, Suffolk, on January 22.

final stage of the expedition at the offices of The Observer, St Andrew's Hill, (City of London) on January 22.

Princess Alexandra will be present at a reception on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition in Egypt, an exhibition to mark the centenary of the Egyptian Exploration Society, at the British Museum, on February 17.

Marriages

Mr A. W. B. Rack and Miss R. M. Macdonnell. The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher J. B. Rack, of Barchings Farm, North Walsham, Norfolk, and Miss R. M. Macdonnell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Macdonnell, of St Mary's Manor, Haddington, East Lothian, on January 22.

Mr A. Finkel and Miss C. K. Balingal. The marriage took place on January 22, 1982, on the Prince's Islands, Istanbul, between Mr Andrew Finkel and Miss Caroline Balingal.

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Taking manhood into God

The heart of Christian faith is the truth that God became man, took human flesh. If that doctrine of the Incarnation is removed, the entire Christian edifice collapses.

Incarnational belief is basic to a healthy Christian theology, spirituality and social action. Yet so offensive is this doctrine to modern materialistic doctrine, the belief, in Benjamin's words, "That God was man in Palestine. And lives today in bread and wine."

That every era experiences attempts to evade its full consequences. So Christianity comes to be seen as a non-historical ideology, a form of moral goodness unrelated to historical fact, or a type of spiritual experience to which the actual non-existence of the human Jesus would be only marginally relevant.

Much of the current stress on inner experience seems to be a by-product of this. "While evangelical Christians have been more insistent on the importance of Gospel truth, there are quasi-evangelical forms of this watering down of the Incarnation. In these Jesus becomes simply "my friend", my personal Saviour; the whole notion of taking humanity into God through the Word made flesh disappears.

However, today we are seeing not only the evasion of Incarnation but its deliberate denial. It is a "myth", a subjective experience, a distortion of the primitive faith by Hellenism. Much current writing on this and related aspects of doctrine seems to be concerned to make Christianity credible to "modern man".

Out of that book the Confession of the Incarnation, which is the heart of the Christian faith, is removed. The entire Christian edifice collapses.

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The idea that the Incarnation as it stands is incredible leads some to argue for a "remaking" or "reworking" of this fundamental doctrine. So "modern man" may no longer be offended and may be brought through the methods of gentle refinement to believe. Thus, armed with his newly acquired weapons of faith, he will face the onslaughts of secularism and atheism.

Unfortunately, such a process of remaking looks rather different from the battlefield that it did in the laboratory. For in fact the process is a kind of theological striptease. To be armed with these revisionist beliefs is actually worse than having no armour at all. For in warfare with evil forces, we need all the resources we can have.

Gospel truth is not some obscure set of concepts which are difficult to swallow and which therefore need to be diluted. Gospel truth is more like high explosive or highly toxic drugs. Take away the central truth and there is no power, no potency. The atheist is in a healthier state, for he knows what he has rejected or abandoned.

It is the power and toxicity of the doctrine of the Incarnation which has, through the centuries, been the driving and transforming force in Christian discipleship and Christian resistance. It is not without significance that at the time of Hitler's rise to power, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote his book on Christianity in which he defended the doctrine of the Incarnation against those who, in the name of liberalism, wished to deny its truth. Out of that book the Confession of the Incarnation, which is the heart of the Christian faith, is removed. The entire Christian edifice collapses.

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Much of the current stress on inner experience seems to be a by-product of this. "While evangelical Christians have been more insistent on the importance of Gospel truth, there are quasi-evangelical forms of this watering down of the Incarnation. In these Jesus becomes simply "my friend", my personal Saviour; the whole notion of taking humanity into God through the Word made flesh disappears.

However, today we are seeing not only the evasion of Incarnation but its deliberate denial. It is a "myth", a subjective experience, a distortion of the primitive faith by Hellenism. Much current writing on this and related aspects of doctrine seems to be concerned to make Christianity credible to "modern man".

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Church was to draw much of its theological ammunition in the conflict with Nazism.

The doctrine asserts three scandalous claims which are no less scandalous now than they were in the early centuries. First, it asserts that God took flesh, that the Eternal became small.

O wonder of wonders which none can unfold! The Ancient of Days is an hour or two old, The Maker of all things, is made of the earth, Man is worshipped by angels, and God comes to birth.

Everything in Christian faith and life hinges on the taking of flesh of the word of God. As Tertullian put it, *caro salutis est conditio*, the flesh is the hinge of salvation. Reject the flesh of Christ as the fount of salvation and of all spiritual life, and one has already begun the move away from Christian orthodoxy.

Second, it asserts that the purpose of taking flesh by the Word of God was, in the magnificent words of the Athanasian Creed, the "taking of manhood into God". The eastern church dares to use the term *theosis*, deification. The Incarnation is the source of a true and material based Christian mysticism, not the flight of the alone to the alone, but the raising of human nature to share the divine life through the materialism of Incarnation.

Third, it asserts that the word *was* God, not a semi-divine being, not a superman, not an inferior but True God from True God. There is equality within the Godhead. It was this principle of

equality for which the early fathers fought in their battles with the heretics, and it is the same battle which orthodox Christians are fighting today. For if the life of God is a life characterized by equality and sharing, then human beings made in that image and raised into that life by the Incarnation, are called to a similar life. That is why orthodox Christianity must lead in an egalitarian direction.

Much of what is mistaken for Christian orthodoxy is in fact deeply heretical, owing more to the Emperor Constantine than to the Council of Chalcedon. Much so-called "Christianity" is simple monotheism rather than the faith of the Triune God in whose social life we share. Even a "belief" in the Incarnate Christ can be purely a conceptual affair, and thereby miss the point.

For the Incarnation is more than a belief, it is a principle of life and transformation. The principle that salvation and all spirituality comes through the flesh and through matter lies at the heart of the entire Christian understanding.

Spirituality which is rooted in the Incarnation can never be world-denying or private. Nor can it be reduced to the "imitation of Christ". Rather it is a call to be transformed into the divine life.

For, in the words of St John of the Cross: "There would not be a true and total transformation of the soul were not transformed in the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity in an open and manifest degree." The Incarnation is more than a doctrine; it is a call to glory.

Kenneth Leech

Safe landing: A sculpted green heron by William Schultz securely berthed at the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, where it forms part of an exhibition of bird art which opens today.

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OBITUARY

PROFESSOR W. G. SPECTOR

Pathologist who changed from classics to medicine

Professor Walter Graham Spector, F.R.C.P., F.R.C.Path., died suddenly at his home on January 7. He was 57.

The son of F. Spector, he was born on December 20, 1924. Although he was educated in classics at the City of London School he decided to study medicine, and in one year he changed from classics to medicine, acquiring the necessary scientific entrance requirements for Cambridge University.

At Queens' College, Cambridge, he gained his B.A., M.A. degrees. From there he went to the University of London Medical School to complete his medical education, and he qualified in 1947. In 1948 he became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians.

His interest rapidly became directed towards research on the inflammatory process and the reactions to injury. In 1951-53 he was awarded a Beit Memorial Fellowship for Medical Research and this he followed with an enormous enthusiasm in the department of Sir Roy Cameron at U.C.H.

In 1956 he was awarded a Rockefeller Travelling Fellowship which enabled him to establish links with Australian colleagues. On his return he was Litchfield lecturer at University of Oxford in 1957. He was appointed Senior Lecturer in Pathology in 1960 at University College Hospital Medical School, and in 1962 he became Professor of Pathology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School and consultant pathologist to the hospital.

From 1962 at Barts he served on innumerable committees both for the medical college and for many outside organizations. He was treasurer of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Pathology*, member of the Council of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and secretary of the Advisory Board of the Beit Memorial Fellowships.

Spector was also a member of many Medical Research Council committees, and devoted a great deal of time to the study of Infant Death, of which he was chairman of the scientific board for some years.

His contribution to his chosen research subject was of great importance; his work revolved interest in the underlying mechanism of the inflammatory response. This work was continued throughout his life. One of his outstanding qualities, also, was as a teacher of undergraduate students at Barts and in inspiring many post-graduate students from home and overseas towards a career in research.

Wally Spector was a dedicated, caring man who was always ready to discuss research problems with his students and colleagues; a gifted writer, too, his books and many publications in learned journals will remain a testimony to his prodigious work output.

He married in 1957, June, only daughter of Colonel W. F. Routledge, O.B.E. They had two sons. The marriage was dissolved in 1977.

MR IVOR OWEN THOMAS

Mr Ivor Owen Thomas, who died on January 11 at the age of 83, was Labour Member of Parliament for the Wrexham division of Shropshire from 1945 to 1955.

The son of Benjamin Thomas, of Briton Ferry, Glamorgan, he went to an elementary school and at the age of 10 started work as a barber's father boy. Later he was employed at a tinplate works and was an engine cleaner on the old Great Western Railway at Pontypool Road for four years. While there he won a NUR scholarship to the London Labour College where he spent two years. In 1925 he joined the head office staff of the NUR where he was to spend twenty years. In the general election of 1945 he won the Wrexham seat, leaving the Conservative Party and joining the Labour Party.

Mr. William Yates by 478 votes. He then resumed work at NUR headquarters until 1958. He sat on Battersea Borough Council from 1925 to 1945 and was a chairman of the housing committee.

From 1960 to 1964 he worked for British Railways, Southern Region at Watlington. He married in 1929 Beatrice, daughter of Mr. William Davis. They had one daughter. His wife died in 1978.

MARCEL CAMUS

Marcel Camus, the French film director, died in Paris on January 13 at the age of 69.

He was best known internationally for *Black Orpheus*, for which he won first prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1959. It was a modern version of the Orpheus and Eurydice story, set in Rio de Janeiro during carnival time and having as its hero a black tram driver. As in several of his films, Camus used complex and full locations to strong effect.

Born in Chappes in 1912, he studied to become an art teacher and started his working life as a painter and sculptor. He entered the cinema after the Second World War, during which he spent four years in captivity.

Saturday Review

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, born January 30, 1882, was the only President of the United States to be elected four times. With his wife Eleanor he occupied the White House from 1933 to 1945; he died in office. Only this week, in a poll of historians and political scholars, he was named third best, after Lincoln and Washington, of all American Presidents. Joseph Alsop, most distinguished of Washington journalists is, through his mother, a member of the Roosevelt "clan", and so knew FDR intimately both as political writer and family visitor. These photographs, and the extract below, are from his centenary memoir, *FDR 1882-1945: The Life and Times of Franklin D. Roosevelt*, which is to be published on February 1 by Thames and Hudson at £10.50.

FDR



The State Senator and Family (wife Eleanor, daughter Anne, mother Sara) in 1911 at their Canadian island summer home, Campobello; their regular home was then at Albany, the New York state capital.



The quintessential FDR, features made familiar by thousands of newspaper cartoons: "He was against misery, poverty, oppression, cruelty, injustice, meanness, smallness...and he was a stout friend of plenty, generosity, decency, liberality, geniality, openness, justice, and freedom."



The Governor on his way to the White House: in 1930 — the year of this photograph at Hyde Park, New York — FDR convincingly retained the governorship of New York state, and secretly resolved on pursuit of the Presidential nomination in 1932. Having won that, he attacked the Republicans' natural electoral majority with a whistle-stop tour that exhibited his limitless energy, buoyancy and charm and produced the first Roosevelt landslide.



The Navy Secretary: The style and infectious high spirits that were FDR's hallmark broke through (left) in July 1920 on the streets of Washington, in the month when he became the Democrats' nominee for Vice-President (with James Cox); Harding and Coolidge won by a landslide.

FDR caught poliomyelitis at Campobello in 1921: he never regained the use of his legs, but he refused to let the disability affect his career or his enjoyment of life.



On October 21, 1944, running for President for a fourth term, Roosevelt drove for hours through cold New York rain in an open limousine as thousands lined the streets from the Bronx to Lower Manhattan. "I was really worked," Eleanor wrote, "but instead of being exhausted he was exhilarated."

Washington in the 1930s was still small and safe, and the government in Washington was still on a small and human scale. The best symbol of the change that has overtaken Washington is the ornamental cast iron barrier protecting the White House lawns and grounds. It is now around nine feet high and reinforced in various ways. Theodore Roosevelt had ordered its installation to prevent his laws being used as a public right of way — and had been denounced as unbecomingly for his pains. Until the Second World War seemed imminent and the Secret Service insisted upon something higher and more secure, the barrier was low enough to be easily vaulted over by a reasonably athletic ten-year-old. It was raised to its present height because of Puerto Rican terrorists' attempt to assassinate President Truman.

Although Franklin Roosevelt had suffered one assassination attempt (in February, 1933), when Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago was killed by his side in Miami, the Secret Service in the Roosevelt years was always unobtrusive. Nor did you need security clearance or a special card to enter any building in Washington, including the White House itself. The gates were always open; if you were a newspaperman, you were known to everyone; and you just walked into the Presidential office wing of the White House, hung up your hat in the pressroom, and asked friends, "What's new?"

The same difference of scale and ease of access between the present and the past was apparent in Roosevelt's White House staff and in his famous press conferences — the only ones that ever came close to giving real substance to the cliché about American press conferences having the role of question time in the British Parliament. There literally was no White House staff of the modern type, with policy-making functions. Two extremely pleasant, unassuming, and efficient men, Steve Early



"Most Americans were proud of the Roosevelt White House, and...right to be proud"

and Marvin McIntyre, handled the President's day-to-day schedule and routine, the donkey-work of his press relations, and such like. There was a secretarial camarilla of highly competent and dedicated ladies who were led by "Miss" LeHand, an efficient, very pretty woman who was widely supposed (I never knew whether correctly) to have been the President's resident mistress for a good many years. There were also lesser figures to handle travel arrangements, the enormous flow of correspondence, and the like. But that was that; and national policy was strictly a problem for the President, his advisers of the moment (who had constant access to the President's office but no offices of their own in the White House), and his chosen chiefs of departments and agencies.

As for the famous press conferences, anything of the sort would be totally ruled out now by the enormous inflation of the news-handling business, both in size and self-importance. Today, Presidential press conferences are like vast but occasional cirrus clouds, with preening personalities desiring to see themselves on the television screen, all simultaneously screaming for

attention, while the unfortunate President of the day struggles to transmit his chosen message to the nation. Roosevelt's press conferences were downright cozy, in contrast, with no one there but seasoned professional reporters, all of whom knew one another and did not wish to make asses of themselves before their colleagues or the President they much liked and admired. There were seldom more of them, furthermore, than a hundred or so, and never, never more than two hundred. Before this intimate congregation, almost all known individually to the President, Roosevelt would sit behind his desk, perpetual cigarette in its holder tilted to the accustomed angle, full of confidence and jokes, and above all giving the reporters much information of value to them and to the country.

The reader may suspect me of nostalgia, and the suspicion is well-founded. Since I have gone so far, I may as well go farther. I had the good luck to be assigned to Hyde Park (the Roosevelt New York home) for the weekend of the 1936 election and election night. With great difficulty, Mrs. James Roosevelt (the President's daughter-in-law) had been induced to invite everyone to the election night party: all the reporters like myself, the two or three radio reporters (for there was no television then, of course), the entire White House staff from secretaries to advisers in attendance, all the Secret Service men, even the cameramen. Perhaps because her mother-in-law had so strongly resisted the whole project, the commissary had been left to Eleanor Roosevelt, and therefore largely consisted of damp, dank, ostentatiously dreary roast beef sandwiches. But the President made sure there was plenty to drink, and it was a jolly party.

Mrs. James Roosevelt went among her guests, dispensing graciousness with just a trace of the tone of the lady of the manor reluctantly opening a bazaar she

considered unworthy of her presence. Eleanor Roosevelt went about, too, very much herself, at once wonderful and a bit puritanical (she had a way of glancing at the quantities of Scotch in people's glasses) but above all dispensing a warm welcome to another and did not wish to make asses of themselves before their colleagues or the President they much liked and admired. There were seldom more of them, furthermore, than a hundred or so, and never, never more than two hundred. Before this intimate congregation, almost all known individually to the President, Roosevelt would sit behind his desk, perpetual cigarette in its holder tilted to the accustomed angle, full of confidence and jokes, and above all giving the reporters much information of value to them and to the country.

I do not suppose any American President on any future election night will ever again be able to have another family party — for that was what it was like — of the sort I remember so well. Yet there were not more than fifty-plus of us, all told, on that evening in 1936, and we were the entire entourage of the President who had done more in his first term to change the United States than any succeeding President has ever begun to do, or even thought of doing, in his whole period in office.

As for the way the Roosevelts lived in the White House, the description involves a phrase seldom used now; yet the best way to put it is to say that they lived like a rather old-fashioned American gentleman's family in "comfortable circumstances". Despite the liveried doormen, or other words, there was nothing in the way they lived that could be said in the smallest degree to be glossy, or particularly conspicuous, or likely to meet with the approval of the new group known as the "beautiful people".

As a young man, the President had always got his suits from an English tailor, as was usual in those days for men of his sort, and I suspect he went on doing so — but he rarely took trouble about what he wore, and he only allowed himself two pairs of new shoes per annum. No one in his senses could have hesitated to know, either, which leading New York dressmaker was patronized

by Eleanor Roosevelt. Her wedding dress (in 1905) was no doubt ordered from Worth in Paris, for that was then the custom of clans like hers in New York, and her family must have provided her with a trousseau which would pass inspection. But when the trousseau was worn out, one may be certain she never again saw the inside of a leading dressmaker's establishment. As for her hats, on the rare occasions when convention required her to cover her head, they usually had the look of having been recently found under the bed.

Then, too, the White House interiors were no more decorated than Eleanor Roosevelt herself. Shabby things and new things, hideous things and fine things, jostled one another everywhere in the private rooms on the second, or private, floor of the White House, while the walls were all but papered with naval prints from the President's collection. The "beautiful people" would not have felt at home; yet their strongest disdain would surely have been aroused by what appeared on the White House table — in this case with justice.

The drink, being the President's department, was not actively repellent. For a small party, he would usually make the cocktails himself with great gusto. What wine there was could sometimes be pretty good, but there was not much wine. As for the food, it was notorious.

Eleanor Roosevelt had imported a nutritionist to be the Presidential housekeeper, and year after year this woman showed once again that nutritionists may well know how to make food healthful, but scorn to make it appetizing or even edible. The salads were especially deplorable; for they tended to be complicated and decorative, and might even conceal bits of marshmallow in their dreadful depths. But all else was pretty depressing, too. Martha Gellhorn once astonished her husband-to-be, Ernest Hemingway, by eating a hearty meal of sandwiches



"Eleanor's hats...had the look of having been found under the bed"

before they went to dinner at the White House. What the nutritionist perpetrated was only part of the story, moreover. Scrambled eggs are not an easy dish to cook in such a way that hungry men turn away in discouragement, yet the scrambled eggs Eleanor Roosevelt always made in chafing dish for Sunday night supper were undeniably discouraging.

The oddest aspect of the White House cuisine, nonetheless, was the fate of the near carload of pheasant, quail, partridge, reed bird, wild duck, wild turkey, venison, antelope, even terrapin from Maryland, which came into the White House every year from rural areas all over the country. Since all these birds and beasts were moving proofs of the near-love the President inspired in many Americans, and also very good to eat, you might have supposed the game would have been eaten. Instead, it always went into the big cellar ice boxes and was never seen on the White House table — unless Eleanor Roosevelt happened to be taking one of her innumerable trips, when her husband sometimes asked for a game dinner.

I suspected then, and I still suspect that this extreme puritanism about food in a house whose master liked to eat well, and who

particularly loved old-fashioned grand food like game, was only partly another manifestation of Eleanor Roosevelt's detestation of anything savouring of worldly ways. She was never against quiet evenings with a moral excuse. She equated plain living with high thinking, so it was moral to eat badly. And if her husband did not like eating badly, why, there were passages in their joint past she had not liked either.

All the same, I cannot recall the Roosevelt White House today without a severe spasm of nostalgia. I was not asked there often — usually for the family festivals each year, sometimes for the regular Sunday suppers, more rarely when one of my mother's visits to Washington or something similar provided a special pretext. But on all occasions when I could form a judgment — and leaving the food aside — the style of life in the White House in the Roosevelt years struck me as pretty close to the perfect style of a President.

Both Roosevelts were always warmly welcoming, totally unpretentious, and easy with their guests in precisely the right way. The company was usually haphazardly mixed — old friends, high officials, the odd distinguished foreigner, members of the family, often one or two of the waifs and strays Eleanor Roosevelt had a habit of picking up here and there on her trips — but the company was seldom dull and no one was ever asked for mere show. The state rooms were as grand as the White House state rooms ought to be; but even on major occasions, no attempt was made to heighten the grandeur by false fanfare or fake reverence. The simple, generous hospitality of an old-fashioned American gentleman's house was always the note, even if the food was a flaw. Barring the Roosevelt haters, most Americans were proud of the Roosevelt White House, and in my opinion they were right to be proud.

© Joseph Alsop

Lawrence Kasdan

Scriptwriter-director of *Body Heat* opening at the Warner West End on Thursday



Front line

Hollywood has long been notorious for treating writers badly. But in recent years the pendulum has swung the other way, and screenwriting has become the shortest route to directing a feature film. At 32, Lawrence Kasdan is the latest to step on this creative escalator — his screenplays for *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* won him the chance to write and direct *Body Heat*, which has been much praised in America and opens in London next week. It is a steamy melodrama about a calculating woman and her lawyer-lover who plot to murder her husband for his money.

If the story sounds familiar, it is because *Body Heat* is squarely in the James M. Cain tradition of novels and films like *Double Indemnity* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. "It's a contemporary story, though," says Kasdan, "that's a difference. I usually began with the lawyer, who's a young man in America today dealing with ideas of what a man is, and money and success and sex: concerns that are close to me and to my generation. I put him in a film noir format. One of the things that was great about film noir was a relish about the language, I miss that terribly in most modern movies. My dialogue used to be always one step removed from the colloquial. Plenty of people try to make realistic films. I wanted to make a film which is better than life, where people are smarter and funnier than the people you meet, where they say things which are brighter and more cynical than you or I could ever say."

"I think a lot of people have the wrong idea about me because of *Empire* and *Raiders*. I've never been particularly interested in

those big spectaculars. *Body Heat* is much more a typical script of mine — it's really nothing but two hours of people talking to one another. Audiences have got out of the habit of listening to films, but I think they can be persuaded to listen if the plot is sufficiently exciting."

Though his concern for the supremacy of his words sounds authentic for a writer, the stocky, Kasdan claims this is another misconception. "I always wanted to be a director. A lot of writers turn to directing in order to protect what they wrote. For me, it was the other way around. Writing was a skill I had, so I used it to get into the position where I could direct."

Kasdan's career began when he studied at the University of Michigan. I went there because they have a very lucrative writing competition. I had heard Arthur Miller had won it and helped put himself through college that way. I was able to do the same. I ended up with a degree in education, thinking I would teach high school and write screen plays in my spare time. It turned out to be a lot harder to become a high school English teacher than to become a movie director.

Instead, Kasdan spent seven years working in advertising and writing at night. "The first script I ever sold was called *Bodyguard* and I have now sold it three separate times. It's never been filmed and my father-in-

law keeps telling me I shouldn't let them film it—it's like my annuity. The second screenplay I sold was *Continental Divide* and that really fulfilled every screenwriter's dream, of finishing a script one day, and the next day four studios are bidding against each other for the rights."

After various production vagaries, *Continental Divide* was filmed this summer by the British director Michael Apted. Meanwhile, Kasdan had met George Lucas, who had met George Lucas, and agreed to rewrite the second in the *Star Wars* series.

"What happened was that at one point Steve Spielberg was going to direct *Continental Divide* and it was through him that I met George Lucas. I really did *Empire* to help George out at a time when he was under a lot of pressure. The film didn't really turn out the way I'd have liked—the things I admire about it have nothing to do with what I wrote. *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, on the other hand, is very faithful to my script. When I came to direct *Body Heat* one of the experiments I wanted to try was to 'shoot the script'. I think very often directors make too many changes, and that's why we wind up with so many bad movies. It's a fashion."

Body Heat pairs a newcomer, Kathleen Turner, with William Hurt — the United States critics' unanimous choice for the New Male Movie Star after his performance in *Altered States* and *The Janitor*.

"Bill Hurt forced me to hire him," Kasdan says. "The first time I saw him was in *The Janitor* for Peter Yates. He came to my hotel and we started drinking, which is never such a good idea. We talked for five hours. Bill is highly intelli-



"The director re-makes in his own image." Lawrence Kasdan at work

gent, but sometimes his thoughts go faster than his articulation. A lot of different ideas emerged between us in our approaches to the script. He's a forceful personality and I was ready to let him go. Fortunately, he wasn't ready to let me go. He came back and he was the character so completely I had to hire him. I love actors, anyway. I think Hollywood's reliance on stars, which they still retain, is enormously destructive. There's this great log-jam of talented American actors sitting out there in theatre and television. One of the tasks I'd like to set myself as a director is to introduce as many new faces as possible.

"I had intended to give up writing once I started to direct. I don't like the

loneliness of writing. But I've found what I half suspected in advance, that it's very hard to find a script you want to devote 18 months of your life to making. I'm still not sure what a screenwriter does — I don't think anybody else is either. My latest definition is that he or she makes the film in his head. Then he puts it down on paper so other people can see it for the first time. That film will never get shown in a cinema. What the director then does is come in and remake that film in his own image. But that's very different from starting from nothing. Only the writer does that."

Joan Goodman

New York/John Heilpern

How can they follow Nickleby?

Now that we are all "Nicklebyed out" — which is a new American expression meaning "to be totally exhausted pleasantly" — and that the triumphant *Nicholas Nickleby* troupe has given quite unalterably and positively its last performance on Broadway (or anywhere), it is time to pause awhile and take stock of the common culture that divides us.

The virtually unprecedented scenes that took place on *Nickleby's* farewell performance — a thunderous 15-minute ovation; tears on both sides of the footlights; speeches from the stage; the celebrated \$100 ticket selling for as much as \$1,500 — are evidence enough of New York's joyful appreciation that there never was an array of such histrionic talent as assembled on one stage, as the good Mr Crummles puts it.

Undoubtedly, the Royal Shakespeare Company will be greatly missed on Broadway, not least by the blind beggar (as I think he was blind) who at the end of each performance positioned himself outside the theatre, cleverly sang selections from *Oliver*, and was to benefit so much from the Dickensian charity dispensed most generously by the recently reformed *Nickleby* theatre-goers that he is now believed to have retired to a beach house in Florida.

I am tempted to declare, in a burst of nationalistic pride, that the reason *Nickleby* was received with such euphoria on Broadway is simply because British actors are, without doubt and absolutely, the best. This was my view of the RSC's visit was, Oh to think in America now that England is here. Like-minded paternalism has led, however, to such things as the American War of Independence, and I had better watch my superlatives. Let us say that British and American actors are different. To name but one, that fine young American actor, Peter MacNicol, who has been cast for the sought-after role of Stingo in the film version of *Sophie's Choice* and is currently appearing to much acclaim on Broadway in *Crimes of the Heart*, was recently discussing how he keeps his nightly performance fresh. "I'll do something different, or I'll change something," he said. "In the scene where I take a business

card out of my pocket, I'll pull it out of my breast pocket, or maybe I'll take it out of my side pocket. Maybe I'll pull out a dollar bill along with the business card. One night I had a cork in my pocket..."

Or perhaps one night Mr MacNicol parts his hair on the right, then on the left, then down the middle. He is, as American actors tend to do, worrying about the surface of things in depth. Thus, Americans are preoccupied with "behaviour" and "naturalism", whereas British actors are concerned most of all with language.

It is why Britain consistently produces the finest classical actors, viz *Nickleby*, whereas America produces the best film actors and modern heroes, viz Brando. The two opposites grow out of two very different traditions, as different as vintage port is to Californian wine. Californian wine can be excellent, by the way.

Then again, unlike Britain, America has no subsidized national theatre, no real equivalent to our Arts Council, no strong repertory system, and no tradition of ensemble acting. In a year that has seen the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts in America sliced wickedly in half, while at the same time the budget for its military has risen to a record \$89.7m a year, one can see where American priorities in the arts are to be found. For all its admiration of the system that produced *Nicholas Nickleby*, America prefers, it seems, to march to the rousing sound of *The Stars and Stripes Forever*.

It also prefers — because it cannot help itself — profits. It has been well said that American theatre has to be a killing rather than a living. In theatre, America goes after the American Dream via the throw of the dice, the popular mainstream show and the star system. If, as was rumoured, the production of *Nicholas Nickleby* were to be continued on Broadway with an American cast, you can bet your bottom dollar that Al Pacino would end up as Nicholas and David Bowie would play Stingo, or the other way round. Trevor Nunn could be played by Bob Fosse, but only if Mr Fosse were permitted to include a heart-rending dance sequence based on his own life story.

My point is that Broadway is not in business to hold up a mirror to life, but to entertain. So is our West End. But the West End is the mercifully balanced by the option of subsidized theatre and it receives injections of life from it. In a recent American TV show the comic Steve Martin, who understands these things, came on as the Elephant Man with an enormous trunk attached to his nose and great Dumbo ears. "If you have an elephant man, a human pincushion, a Sinatra," declared his agent, "that's showbiz!" "That's right," the level-headed Elephant Man replied. "I don't want to be cured. I'm despicable and disgusting — but that's where the money is."

Whether, then, the theatre of O'Neill, Odets, Williams and Miller? It has been partially overthrown, I think, by the predominance of the big American musical — a highly commercial form of theatre, with a potential life-expectancy of a quarter of a century, that is able to appeal easily to any nationality. More important, though not quite to the extent of Britain, American theatre suffers badly from the influence of television, which during the last decade in America has risen to an all-time low.

There have, for example, been more Broadway hits about physical deformity, blindness, deafness and dying than I care to mention. But all reflect the nation's daily TV diet of soap operas and "concerned" movies about real-life tragedies. This season alone there have been no less than six Broadway plays that star a wheelchair, or a star in one, (Katharine Hepburn, Claudette Colbert, and Anne Bancroft). I am not counting the bathchair in *Amadeus*.

Even audiences are different. Because theatre tickets are twice as expensive in America as in England, the programmes are free, which is a lot of use — it isn't surprising that American audiences are determined to enjoy themselves, if it kills them. Unlike the traditionally reserved British audience, Americans are prone to give standing ovations to anything that pleases them.

Mere rapturous applause will not do. It has reached the point when, should a cat stroll by accident across the Broadway stage it would surely receive a standing ovation too, particularly if it were tap-dancing at the time. And all this typically American enthusiasm is to the good, though many has had the occasion when at the end of a play a cheering Broadway audience has ruined my displeasure.

As the *Nickleby* actors will testify, American audiences are different to the British. "Hi!" they would say, thrusting out a hand to the hesitant *Nickleby* actor who ventured in the audience during the show. "Welcome to New York! Howayadoin'?" And the answer would have to be, "Great!" But one shouldn't rest easy. I don't think America can produce a *Nicholas Nickleby*. But then, I would doubt whether Britain could produce the modern musical to match the contribution of America. Because in the essentials of theatre and theatregoing we are united, if only by our differences.



Roger Rees as Nicholas

Opera/Hilary Finch

Two heroes in Hoffmann

The ovations will doubtless be longer, the stapede more heavily thronged when Plácido Domingo returns on Monday to John Schlesinger's centenary production of *Hoffmann* which he inspired and inspired a year ago. But for the first night of its revival, William Lewis, the American tenor making his London debut as Hoffmann, brought to the role a compellingly perceptive, fiercely individual and keenly musical understanding that was enough to put any future Hoffmann on his mettle.

His voice is not beautiful; yet he uses the sharp edge of it so much, and such a French, character to carve out a vigorously memorable figure of the poet which shifts and develops throughout the three tales. Ravaged, weary, yet able to burst into despairing, staring-eyed energy in the Prologue, he revealed in his "Kleinwach" song, a glimpse of that emotional range and colour that was to span the

irrational, the despairingly physical, and the ardently adoring, before returning, unflagging, to a gripping projection of the Epilogue's isolation, pity and fear.

Co-hero of the evening was the conductor Jacques Delacôte, close to the heart of Offenbach's music, and its performers, drawing from the orchestra an energy as broad yet sharply and vivaciously detailed as Schindler's magnificent, and magnificently sung crowd scenes, as aware as the production is of the darkness as well as the elegant fantasy of the work. Its momentum could be both savage and lightly sprung, from the bloom of the perfectly paced Barcarolle to the elan of the love duets, the diabolic intensity of the Act III trios.

The first newcomer to make his appearance was Stafford Dean as an assured, coldly sinister Lindorf, balanced nicely by Diana Montague, lithe, bright of eye and voice. Although Thomas

Allen's Dappertutto his "Scientific Diamond" unfolding like black velvet, made one wish, for a moment, that the male roles were telecopied, the individual excellence of the three ladies once again vindicated Covent Garden's decision to cast separately.

After the mechanical virtuosity of Olympia, Luciano Serra as thrillingly incisive as ever, Josephine Veasey as the new Giulietta brought a virile range of emotion to the courtesan's role, while Leona Mitchell's Antonia, larger than life, let alone consumptive death, was a moving fusion of shining strength and dusky languor.

Among the still strongly cast minor characters, Peter Jeffes and Glenville Harcourt, both making their debuts with the Royal Opera, were bright splashes of vocal and physical colour in the shadowy opening and closing of this increasingly satisfying production.

Radio/David Wade

Men in love

Peter Redgrave's "fairy tale for adults" *Florent and the Tuxedo Millions* (January 10) was an assured Radio 3 production from Bristol by Brian Miller. Angharad Rees in love-like voice played Florence Florent, a Cambridge graduate who joins a firm of private detectives, only to learn on her male partner's death that he has been using her divorce case investigations to divert a stream of highly solaceable ladies to himself.

Deeply offended on her feminism, she soldiers on alone, unsuccessfully, until, with several other private eyes, she is commissioned under the will of the late Tuxedo to search out the answer to "What men really love". Those who find the right answer (as defined by Tuxedo) will inherit due proportions of his huge wealth.

Florence's investigations lead her finally to the oldest man in the world. He imparts the secret to her — though not to us — on condition that she marries him. She consents, repairs her foot to the Tuxedo executor and, lo and behold, she's the only one who's got it. The answer: "Sovereignty." Inconformity of which Tuxedo's body evaporates in its casket. For heaven's sake, where are we now?

Where we are is in the midst of "a feminist fantasy-comedy" so the question is to be taken literally: "What do men really love?" Not mankind but men as opposed to women. Men like to be boss. It seemed a long and not exceptionally entertaining way to have come to be told what is a fairly true only for some men some of time and generally a heap of other things we love.

Florence marries her geriatric and even finds some unforced affection for the poor old stick. So much so in fact that he, engagingly and in the best fairy tale fashion,

regains his youth, transmuting into a fine young black. But when she sees him, Florence seems to reassert the play's less interesting preoccupation. She asks, "Who's going to be the boss?"

I doubt if Florence would have some much on the Rastafarians, in whose cult the answer to her question is an uncompromising "The Man". This was a bit of information communicated by Paul Boateng's *Rastafari: Black Redemptor* (Radio 4, Jan 7 and 10) in which he described a movement whose most noteworthy characteristic is the degree to which it matches the classic model of the minority group struggling for identity.

The history of the Jews gives many good examples and, in fact, the condition of blacks throughout the world was referred to as "the black diaspora". Africa is Zion, and while a Rasta may or may not envisage going back there, it is on a vision of African culture that he tries to base his own. "Babylon" is his term for the surrounding white culture which, with more than a dash of stern puritanism, he rejects.

It is not then a movement greatly interested in integration: much more in the establishment of a parallel but apparently peaceable and self-respecting society. In the long run that might even be the more promising course.

Another close but declining society was the subject of Capital Radio's documentary feature, *The Final Generation* (Jan 10). Recorded in binaural stereo this was a portrait of London's vanishing lightermen and watermen. There was some marvellously vivid material, but also too much that was repetitive and difficult to hear. With better shaping and editing, this could have been a stunning programme.

Television/Dennis Hackett

Stealing saga lacks lift

I've heard it said, and more than once in a desperate attempt at mitigation in court, that middle-aged men get up to some rum things, and it may be that when the dramatic pendulum swings, we may even see something about them.

At the moment, however, the pendulum seems to be secured in one place by middle-aged women and their trials and tribulations. So it was last night when Carol Buynan's *A Silly Little Habit* pricked on BBC2.

Daphne is married to an oilman, usually absent as oilmen tend to be. She lives in affluence and is visited occasionally by her two grown children. Neither seemed to me to be a sufficient antidote to the fact, in fact the daughter, a coiled career woman of the karate kind, would make solitude desirable.

On one of their visits mother is ill at ease for reasons other than her siblings' rivalry: she is to appear in court for shop-lifting and this is recorded in the local paper. She is desperate to keep this out of their hands. Why she didn't destroy it I don't know but, in the event, though her son wonders about the presence of a Claridge's spoon, the paper is unremarked.

But mother confesses all to a school friend she hasn't seen for yonks and yonks after the school friend, also beset by affluence, has told her that her own little impulse to do something naughty has been fulfilled by brushing her little Renault on a neighbour's Volvo, then wiping off the paint and concealing her own car for a fortnight.

She demands a return confession, gets more than she bargained for and can only react by giving her friend a name and address in Harley Street and extracting a promise not to shop-lift again. Despite this Daphne is last seen in a supermarket pocketing a tin of something or other — she prefers this to other things.

I thought *A Silly Little Habit* rather a silly play. We don't have to scour our memories hard to think of tragedies arising from this sort of thing but they need a deeper probe than Carol Buynan had to hand.

Despite this there were good performances from Margaret Tyacke as the shop-lifter and Pauline Jameson as her bubbling friend and car-scraper. It was produced by Anne Head and directed by Sarah Pia Anderson.

Diary quiz

The answers to these questions from the week's news will appear in Monday's Diary.

1. Who failed to clear a legal fence?
2. What left a bad taste and caused 23 million lost working days last year?
3. Who criticized his own party?
4. And who criticized his own executive?
5. What may be stirring in the Forest?
6. Who declared pricey profits?
7. What took a right royal tumble?
8. Who said, "My passion is my country?"
9. What was said to be reacting to a non-event?
10. Who complained of having an "over-sense of living in a drizzle"?



Some appalling puns in Nureyev last week: "Bullet Russia," "Don Quixshot," "The Swamoor," "Point Tu-tu," "Bulletomane," "Pas de douché" — you see what I mean. So the winner had to be the least awful punster: Mr Michael Claughton, from Ashford in Kent, for "The guidance kid".



Our usual bottle of Verve Clicquot for the wittiest caption to this photograph of Lord Grade, from yesterday's paper. Entries, on a postcard please, to: Diary Quiz, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Rd., London WC1X 8EZ, to arrive not later than first post Thursday.

Chess/Harry Golombek

The correspondence is closed

I have had a letter from Mr J. W. Harper in which he mentions three matters concerning changes in the practice and rules of the game. First, let me give a brief history of early chess which will help serve as an answer.

Chess is supposed to have been invented in the fifth century AD in north-west India; to have passed on to the Persian empire and then to have caught on throughout the Muslim world.

When played by the Persians and Arabs, the pieces did not move far and as a result chess was very slow. The Queen, now the most powerful piece, was then the weakest and could move only one square diagonally; the bishop could move only two squares diagonally. All in all chess must have been a most tedious game to play.

might be argued that chess has reached a peak of excellence from which it should not lightly be changed.

Now for Mr Harper's first point. He asks why the celebrated matadors of the game don't play correspondence chess. The answer is simply that the game is best played over the board and that the great masters find they have the most pleasure playing man to man.

The next query concerns the fate of odds chess; the giving of odds at chess was popular in the eighteenth century. In fact the great Philidor seems to have played most of his games in this style and he was so outstanding that he had little difficulty beating his opponents at odds and move. The practice of giving odds began to disappear in the nineteenth century as the general level of play rose, in the twentieth century it has practically disappeared.

The general level of play has risen so much that grandmasters cannot give masters odds successfully;

masters cannot give first class amateurs odds and hope to win, and so on down the line. In addition, odds-giving tends to produce an ugly and violent type of game. The natural subtlety of chess is thereby obscured.

Mr Harper's third question is this: "Why will Frank Morley's one contribution to chess never be accepted — or Capablanca's similar suggestion for that matter?" The answer to the second section of this question lies in the fact that Capablanca wished to change the rules after, and only after, he had lost the world title. As for Frank Morley's suggestion, that 12 more squares should be added to the chess board, history is littered with ideas for changing the game invented by those who are unable to play chess well. None of them ever catch on. Weaker players cannot become stronger by changing the nature or practice of the game. Although chess reached its perfect form some five centuries ago, its almost infinite variety has made it immune to change.

Meanwhile, here is how the 18-year-old Harry Kasparov demonstrated the ever-green freshness of the Alekhine type of combination with a fine win over a strong opponent at the Soviet championship at Frunze in December, 1981.

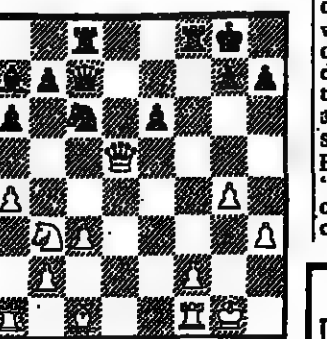
White: V. Cheshkovsky Black: H. Kasparov. Sicilian Defence.

1 P-K4 P-QB4
2 N-KB3 P-C3
3 P-Q4 P-D
4 N-P P-Q3
5 P-QB3 P-B3
6 P-Q2 B-G2
7 B-G2 B-G2
8 Q-O Q-K2
9 P-QB4

Waste of time; better seems development by either B-K3 or P-QN3 followed by B-N2.

9 O-O P-B1
10 O-N-K2 P-B1
11 P-QB3 P-Q2
12 P-R3 P-Q4
13 P-QB4 P-Q4
14 P-P N-QP
15 B-N

This exchange leaves his Kingside dreadfully weak; preferable was 15.N-QB2 to be followed by B-K3.



20 Q-K4
If 20.QxP ch, K-R1; 21.B-K3, B-N1; 22.P-KB4, KR-K1.

20 ... R-P
21 R-R Q-N6 ch
22 Q-N2 B-N ch
23 K-R1

Or 23.K-R1, Q-Q6; 24.QxP, B-B1; 25.Q-N2, R-B3 ch; 26.K-R2, Q-Q3 ch; 27.Q-N3, R-B7 ch.

23 ... B-B4 Q-K4
24 B-B4

After any other move 24... R-KB1; and Black wins.
25 ... Q-B3
26 Q-B3 Q-B5 ch
resigns. A game played in a style strongly reminiscent of the great Alexander Alekhine.

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Collectors' Diary/Geraldine Norman

Constables and detectives

There are innumerable different motives for collecting, but among the most usual are: visual/aesthetic pleasure, historical/romanticism and historical/sociological curiosity. The importance of the last is often overlooked but many collectors are veritable Sherlock Holmeses in their fields, searching for clues, following up inspired guesses and contributing importantly to the clarification of muddled areas of art history.

For art history is by no means as well ordered as the little gold plaques on museum pictures would seem to imply. Attributions are often tentative and are often changed.

One of the most glorious muddles in British art is the penumbra of Constable "style" paintings that surround the genuine work of John Constable. It includes works by his family and friends, followers, imitators and out and out forgeries.

In 1896 Robert Leslie wrote: "from the quantity of works sold and exhibited under the name of Constable I should not be surprised if the number of forgeries now already exceeded that of his genuine pictures". Many more have, no doubt, been manufactured since then.

A small exhibition at the Tate next month, "Looking for Constable", will highlight the detective work of two Constable scholars, Leslie Parris and Ian Fleming-Williams. The exhibition is devoted to paintings, drawings, prints and photographs by John Constable's son Lionel. Most of the paintings have long masqueraded under an attribution to his father.

They have been sorted out by painstaking picking together of evidence. Apart from a small group of

paintings that remained properly attributed, in the family collection there have been two principal sources of identification: a sketch book now in East Berlin from which Lionel worked up several of the newly attributed oil paintings, and a group of photographs which he took and on which he also based pictures.

The exhibition will provide the first opportunity since Lionel's own lifetime to see a substantial body of his work together, to evaluate and compare. It should prove an important source of new clues and a basis for more detective work. Potential sleuths should start here.

What about Alfred, for example? Alfred (1826-53) and Lionel (1828-1887) were the two youngest of John Constable's seven children. The copious correspondence between them (the majority of letters from Alfred to Lionel) demonstrates that they were both keen landscape painters, working from nature in a manner inspired by their father.



They have been sorted out by painstaking picking together of evidence. Apart from a small group of



The camera clue: this oil of an old barn was once attributed to John Constable but is now thought to be by Lionel, who took the photograph above

Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Tricks and assets

"There's many a man walking the Embankment because he failed to draw trumps", says the old adage; "and even more who have exchanged riches for rags because they drew trumps too soon". One might reply: There are two prime reasons for electing to play in a trump contract; one is to maintain control, the

other to use the trump suit itself to manufacture extra tricks. Only in the former case is it correct to draw trumps immediately. More commonly, declarer will need to score a ruff in dummy, or rely on a cross ruff.

Rubber bridge. North-South game. Dealer North.

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Declaring faces a difficult choice. Should he seek to develop the diamonds, reverse the dummy by establishing the hearts, or rely on a

Off the beaten track in the Far East and on it in the American west

Burma/Richard Vines

The road to Mandalay

The ferry leaves Mandalay for Pagan at five each morning but passengers begin arriving long before. As the sun sets over the Irrawaddy, families bent beneath a pile of possessions approach the boat while farmers bring live chickens, which are to become the following day's curry, and cows to take home to their villages.

Manoeuvres begin on deck to occupy a space which may be home for days. There is no electric lighting and as darkness deepens candles are lighted, meals eaten and prayers said.

Finally, silence is established by consent. Only the animals and babies on board cry impatiently until sunrise, when the slow journey will begin. Then the ferry will meander down the river, seemingly never missing a village on the way.

For tourists wishing to see Pagan, a fabulous ancient city where 5,000 pagodas stand in varying degrees of dereliction, another night must be spent on board at the up country town of Palaw.

The journey ends in a precarious descent along a narrow plank which deposits one ankle-deep in mud on the riverbank. Patience is not only a virtue but a necessity in Burma, where the slowness of life is exceeded only by a bureaucracy which can turn booking a hotel room into a lengthy process of form-filling. In Pagan, for example, one must first go to the official Tourist Burma organization to discover in which hotels one is allowed to stay.

One can then go and look at the hotel room, must return to Tourist Burma to

pay and have one's currency stamp, then back to the hotel to show proof of payment. The maximum tourist visa is one week, with no possibility of extension, so such repeated delays become trying. But the aim of all this paperwork is to keep track of visitors' spending, because the official currency exchange rate is less than half what can be obtained on the black market.

Such problems as one encounters in Burma are a small price to pay to visit a country so culturally and historically rich and to meet people who, although poor, are as kind and friendly as any in the world.

The men and women, both dressed in their skirt-like longis, and mostly untouched by Western influences, greet foreign visitors as if they were old friends and honoured guests. Refusing offers of meals and presents becomes embarrassing, and in the villages women visitors are garlanded with flowers.

Tourists are a rare sight in many in Burma and, although the number of visitors is increasing, the country is uncompromisingly Eastern. But it is changing. Colour television has just arrived and at night in Rangoon I came across a strange street-market where amplifiers blared disco music and youths and girls walked holding hands, a defiant display of physical intimacy. Elsewhere, even in the capital, things are not changing so quickly. Rangoon is full of charm but has an air of quiet decay. The attractive colonial buildings, which line its broad streets, are crumbling, the roads are

potholed, and in the evenings rats can be seen running along broken pavements.

At the Strand Hotel, once the country's grandest but now a Burmese Fawcett Towers, service is so chaotic that the length of time one must wait for a meal is listed next to its price. An ice-cream is quickest at 15 minutes, but will never arrive if your main dish is served after 9pm, when the cook goes home.

Mandalay is best reached by a daily train which leaves at 7am and offers an enjoyable 12-hour ride through fields of sugar-cane, chillies, bananas and rice. At each station dozens of food-sellers beseege carriage windows while others jump on board. They sell everything from locust-like insects and small birds on sticks to chicken bryanis, wrapped in banana leaves, which you eat with your hands as the train pulls away and the last of the vendors leap off.

Such a journey is far more interesting than flying, which is just as well because the country's airline makes it difficult to get on any flight that most visitors are unwilling to risk the considerable time involved in trying to book a seat.

The streets of Mandalay are little more than dusty tracks used by horse-drawn rickshaws and bicycles. There are few motor cars and, like Rangoon, it is a place of immense character and old-fashioned charm.

A walk at dawn up the 1,729 steps to the top of Mandalay Hill gives a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside and temples, including the Kuthodaw Pagoda, where the entire



Village women besiege the Mandalay ferry selling fruit, blankets, betelnut and cheroots.

Buddhist canon is inscribed on 729 marble slabs, each sheltered from the fierce sun by a small temple.

Sightseeing in Burma is indeed spectacular, with Bagan's size of jumbo jets and Rangoon's Shwe Dagon Pagoda, 326-feet high, 2,500 years old and covered with 5,000 solid gold plates. The top is encircled with 5,000 diamonds. But more striking even than sights are the people. Burma is a poor country where a teacher earns about £25 a month, but the Burmese display an honesty and generosity which puts the West to shame.

Few countries are more fascinating and none is more deserving of a visit before everyone else discovers it.

Arizona/Derek Harris

A chance to play cowboys

If all things cowboy and Indian are a personal turn-on then Arizona is irresistible; it can be made ranching, steak cook-outs, Tombstone's OK Corral and Geronimo country the way. Not to mention Old West scenery spectacular like the Apache Trail or Monument Valley (backdrop for a legion horse opera from Stagecoach onwards) and the deserts where the candelabra and organ pipe cactuses grow near the border with Mexico.

Unless heartily casual, friendly Western ways are a positive turn-off (certainly not for my money), there is a lot of holiday value in Arizona, including some unexpected contrasts.

Phoenix, state capital and natural gateway for trans-Atlantic travellers, has a disappointing centre of little character. But there is lush country club living in suburbs in the surrounding hills with—in the downtown too—more wide-ranging cuisines available in the restaurants than just T-bone steaks.

Phoenix has a sprinkling of personalities such as Barry Goldwater (whose store chain empire started there) and Buster Crabbe, the first Flash Gordon, living out his Scottish dream in a house with an occasional residence not far from town but has made few appearances there of late.

In February, day temperatures in Phoenix are in the high sixties and in March they go to the mid-seventies. But two hours drive away are mountains of 7,000 feet or so where the skiing is usually good although by no means

up to the standards of say Utah.

In the summer a desert-tan can be collected in Phoenix in the morning followed by a stroll in cool pinewoods in the afternoon up in the mountains. The desert temperatures above 100 degrees Fahrenheit in July and August but it's tolerable, dry heat.

But hire a car in Phoenix. That puts Tucson, Tombstone and the Apache country around Wilcox and Fort Bowie within three to five hours' driving time. Tombstone is for Western buffs, with its Earp and Clanton connections (it was there that he wound up bloody at the OK Corral). The Boot Hill graveyard is still there. Most Sundays see enacted shoot-outs and similar nostalgic frolics.

Outside Tucson there is a recreation of the town in its frontier days, built in 1939 by Columbia Pictures as a film set and much used since by film-makers.

This part of Arizona offers the biggest variety of ranching holidays. An Arizona Guest Ranches brochure is produced by the Arizona Office of Tourism. Address: 3307 N. Central Avenue, Suite 505, Phoenix AZ 85012.

An example of costs comes from Rex Ranch at Amado, 31 miles south of Tucson, and taking only 30 guests at a time. Double room with bath, including meals and ranching activities plus travel to and from Tucson airport, is \$875 weekly for two people. Children (three to 12) rate \$245 sleeping in with adults. The Rex's Lee Franklin (a sturdy horsewoman) has a London agent: CMS Travel, 1 Mermaid Quay, London SE1.

A car trip around this southern spread of Arizona could be completed with a westward loop to see Monument Valley with its extraordinary striking rock formations rising from the desert floor.

But striking north from Phoenix with the most likely goal the Grand Canyon, seems a choice. The Canyon south rim is 220 miles from Phoenix and one way is five hours of driving through Sedona (an arts and music centre) and Flagstaff.

Go there a mile deep and about 18 miles wide at this point, near Grand Canyon village, the work of wind, weather and the deep-cutting Colorado river, it is riveting even to fly through. Down by mule is more exciting. Air tours available from Phoenix (from about \$80) are the alternative to the road and mean an hour's flight across volcanic country, within sight of the myriad-coloured Painted Desert.

Then the light aircraft braves the slick currents below the rim to reveal the multi-tangled clefts, cliffs and scree shoots descending dramatically to a river spiked with rapids.

A useful conversation opener for the Arizona visitor from Britain: Phoenix was named by an Englishman, Darrell Duppa, scholar and adventurer, who made it there in the mid-1800s. Gazing at long-abandoned Indian ruins there he had in mind the Egyptian phoenix and rightly saw a big city rising from the banks of the Salt River. The desert there is at least as varied than much of Egypt's.

Holiday discount news

Iceland features in this week's discounts, though since the holiday is neither a winter sports nor a winter sunshine break, it does not appear in the chart. Reykjavik is the destination and Twickenham Travel has departures available on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. The cost of the seven night bed and breakfast holiday is now £199, a £21 discount on the brochure price.

Iberia is offering new budget holidays of seven, 10, 11 and 14 nights to Majorca, Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol and Malta at all inclusive prices starting from £59. Savings on current brochure prices range from £8 to £20, though not every hotel features in the current winter brochure. These discounts are available for only a few January departure dates. The holiday makes a choice of the resort and standard of accommodation and Intasun allocates the hotel.

On spring and early summer holidays in Malta, Thomson is offering free holidays for a child under 12 between two and 11 at the Hotel Meliella Bay. One child may travel free with every full fare paying adult. Where two children travel with two adults the children will have a separate room. The offer is open from 30 April to 24 June and the price of one week, half board, starts at £210.

Looking forward to summer, Thomson is offering discounts of up to £70 per person and a free car on villa and apartment holidays in Malta from May 2 to 29 July. To qualify for the reduction and car holiday makers select their departure date and airport, and specify the size of accommodation required. Apartments for two to nine people are available and one car will be allocated to each apartment. Prices of from £117 for one week per person in May are guaranteed against surcharges. S.C.P.

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Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Conditions
SKING					
Tignes, France	7/1/b	Supertravel	£139/149	£35	Jan 23 & 30
Val d'Isère, France	7/1/b	Supertravel	£144/154	£35	Jan 23 & 30
La Plagne, France	7/1/b	Supertravel	£154/164	£35	Jan 23 & 30
Avoriaz, France	7/1/b	Supertravel	£159/169	£35	Jan 23 & 30
St. Anton, Austria	7/1/b	Supertravel	£154/164	£35	Jan 24 & 31
Courchevel, France	7/1/b	Supertravel	£189/199	£35	Jan 30
Chassè, Italy	7/14 h/b	Global	£104/150	£30	Jan 30 & Feb 6
Avoriaz	7/14 n/b	Global	£103/199	£20	Jan 31 & Feb 7
Livigno, Italy	7/14 h/b	Inghams	£151/185	£22	Meet Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Santa Caterina, Italy	7/14/1/b	Swans	£130/180	£22	Meet Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Aprica, Italy	7/14/1/b	Swans	£138/230	£22	Meet Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Cespeggio, Italy	7/14/1/b	Swans	£108/163	£22	Meet Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Courchevel	7/14/1/b	Holiday Villas	£107/142	£12/15	Jan 23
WINTER SUN					
Eilat, Israel	21 b/b	Twickenham Travel	£369/433	£59/91	Jan 24 & 31. Room only for third wk.
Red Sea Riviera	7s/c	Twickenham Travel	£199	£50	Jan 24 & 31
Tenerife	7/14h/b	Global	£139/199	£45	Jan 26
Malta	7/14h/b	Portland*	£79/99	£61/80	Jan 22, Luton
Tunisia	7/14/1/b	Portland	£89/109	£48/57	Jan 22, Luton
Majorca	7/1/b	Portland	£79	£35	Jan 23
Malta	7/14h/b	Portland	£79/99	£62/81	Jan 23
Beridom	7 h/b	Tjersborg*	£108	£24	Feb 6
Malta	14 n/b	Tjersborg	£98	£82	Jan 30
Tenerife	7 h/b	Tjersborg	£188	£23	Jan 29, Manchester
Lanzarote	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£213	£20	Jan 28
Faro	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£115	£15	Jan 24, Manchester
Malaga	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£95	£15	Jan 31

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. * May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 8111. Tjersborg 01-499 8676 and 061-238 9811

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Shoparound with Beryl Downing

Bargains to beat the blizzards

Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midnight snow. Other countries do not do it. The Eskimos eschew it. In Switzerland they think it grand for they're well prepared with ski. But we cannot cope in Basingstoke when the drift's above the knees.

I've often wondered how I should react in the face of adversity and now I know — I kept myself warm in a blizzard on the borders of Oxfordshire and Warwickshire last weekend by making up silly verses — it all comes of being brought up on Noel Coward with my musks instead of wholesome snap, crackle and Popeye.

I should not have been there at all, but it wasn't until I sat there in a motionless queue of cars for an hour, while the snowploughs tried to force a way through a Mini-wide track banked by what appeared to be sugared marble, that I realized how unprepared I was for survival. In spite of the early warning system we had just before Christmas, I was working on the principle that if I ignored the cold it would go away.

I didn't buy extra precautions then, but I shall now. It isn't too late, and even if there is a heatwave next week, one thing is certain — the next time we have weather colder than the South Pole, everything will be a good deal more expensive.

That certainly includes cashmere. I have found nothing more comfortable — lightweight, warm and comfortably soft — and you couldn't have a better opportunity than now, in the middle of the winter sales, to find bargains.

At Harrods you can find slightly imperfect cashmere crew neck sweaters reduced to £35.75 from £59.95; V-neck £36.50 (£54.75); cardigans £43.50 (£65); men's crew neck or V-neck £49 (£75); cardigans £58 (£87); men's socks in three lengths (splendid to wear in boots) 75 per cent cashmere, 25 per cent nylon, £5.75 (£8.25). Not in the sale are cashmere gloves, now only £13.50, gloves in 20 per cent

cashmere with acrylic and wool, £8.50, assorted colours.

Liberty's have round or V-neck jumpers at £33 from £55, scarves in cashmere and silk £10, wools print shawls, £150, men's V-neck £45 from £95, huge mufflers, £62. Selfridges' men's V-neck sweaters are £39.95, scarves £14.95 (£22.95).

Cashmere at Harvey Nichols includes stoles at £50 from £105; men's 75 per cent cashmere socks (imperfect) £3.95 (£6.25); ladies' cardigans £35 (£52); V-necks or tie-neck sweaters £33 (from £55 and £46).

John Lewis's sales merchandise will be pretty sparse by today, but their ordinary stock includes their own brand Jonelle ladies' cashmere crew or V-neck sweaters at £33 and softer button-up cardigans at £38, in a wide range of colours. Men's — V-neck only — are £39. Their men's half hose socks, 75 per cent cashmere, 25 per cent nylon in five colours, are £6.25 and they have cashmere-lined ladies' leather gloves in four colours at £17.50. All items are available at most Partnership stores.

If desperation has finally driven you to consider fur you couldn't do better than take advantage of some of the sales bargains at Konrad Furs' new shop at 90 New Bond Street, W1. There are some substantial reductions at every price level — luxurious blue fox jackets at £295 reduced from £500 and at £500 from £800, full length stranded Saga blue fox coats from £995; short, pastel or ranch mink jackets in sizes up to 20 at £650 from £1,250, and one magnificent black glama ranch mink coat with a Princess of Wales ruffled collar at £4,500 from £6,500.

The same sort of bargains are available at their main branch at 42 Sloane Street, SW1, where their permanent stock of more than 1,000 garments has earned them the nickname "the fur supermarket". It is a tag that director Nazim Ahmed is happy to accept because, she says, the rows of furs on view in their showroom, far from having an off-putting effect, actually attract



Left old fashioned ceramic foot warmer, 10 in x 4 in to prevent your toes dropping off while you watch television (not guaranteed to prevent you dropping off) £5.85 plus £1.43 p & p from Naturally British, 13 New Row, Covent Garden, WC2N 4LF



many customers — men as well as women — who would otherwise be too overawed to go into a very grand salon with nothing on view but the chandelier.

Good value is the watchword, whether in a £25 blue fox scarf or in a mink coat they keep the prices down by buying skins at auction and have them made up abroad specially for them. The

fur business has changed a lot in the past few years and customers who would once have expected something made-to-measure are now happy to try on and take away on the spot.

But if you buy fur in a sale, which one will give you the most for your money? Red fox was the fashion fur for several years, now blue fox is in — what is the



£500 in Konrad Furs' sale at 90 New Bond Street, W1 and 42 Sloane Street, SW1.

Above right cosy lounge dress/nightie in brushed acrylic with penguin design in pink, turquoise and yellow print on cream ground. Fits sizes 10 to 14 from Fenwick's of Bond Street, £13.95.

Photograph by Peter Abrahams

most fashionable fur of the future?

"Mink", says Mr Joe Blair, manager at Sloane Street, without hesitation. "There is a definite return to the appreciation of mink as a really glamorous fur."

Mr Blair has the sort of dignity which would certainly not have permitted a wink, but it was with

a distinctly Chevalier satisfaction that he added, "Thank heavens for little girls — they all of them grow older every day."

I slung several thousand pounds worth of the stuff round my shoulders and couldn't help seeing what he meant. If you are young you look younger in mink. And if you are old, you look better.

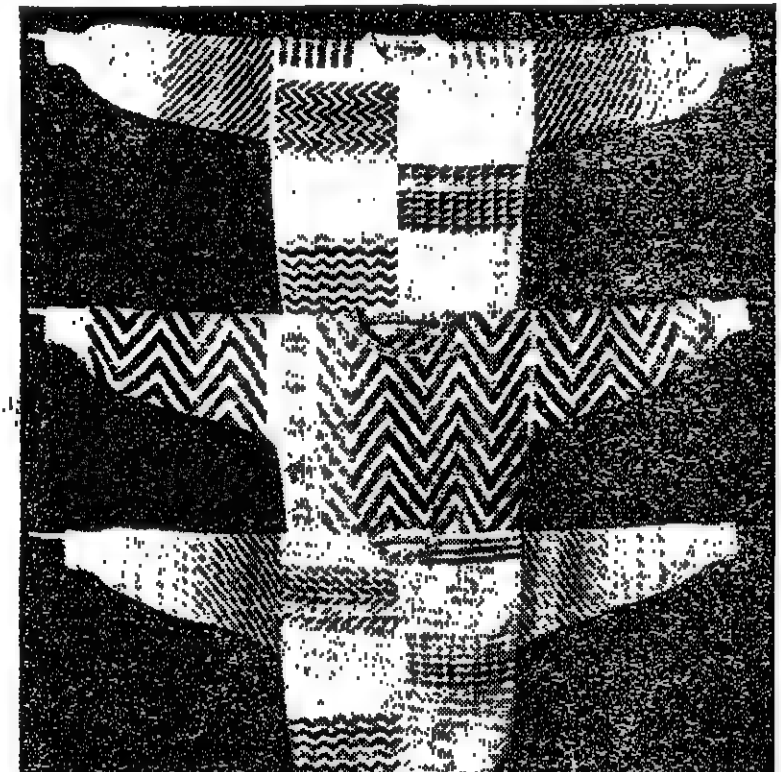
Ms White's riot of colour

If you are looking for clothes to cheer yourself up you couldn't do better than visit the exhibition of jumpers which opens at Living Art, 35 Kenway Road, London SW5, next Tuesday. They are all by Maggie White and they are in the sort of cheerful colours and designs that make you want to do something exhilarating and totally mad.

Maggie started hand knitting for friends. She had intended to go to art school and had given herself 18 months to prepare her portfolio — knitting to support herself meanwhile. But her designs were so successful and she was kept so busy that art school had to wait.

She now produces designs both for machine and hand knits, working mainly in Shetland wools and in stunning combinations of colours. One particularly original design, called Armadillo, is made of overlapping strips of knitting doubled back to make a series of flaps — when you move you ripple. It comes in shades of red, blue and purple and costs £70 — and says Maggie, is very warm but rather heavy, so you have to feel particularly strong to wear it.

There are no such problems with the three Shetland sweaters shown above. The top one is in yellow, orange, pink, mauve, purple and ecru, the middle one in shades of blue and purple, the bottom one in shades of blue and purple.



instead of carise — both on a creamy ground — and the bottom one with a bright fuchsia pink and green among the other brilliant colours. The ground of this can be cream or grey. All are around £60 and would be splendid for skiing or for just being jolly. The exhibition at Living Art

will continue until January 30, Tuesdays to Fridays 1.30-6.30 pm, Saturdays 10 am-4 pm. Telephone 01-370 2766. Maggie White will also undertake special commissions from £50 — enquiries to her at Jericho Workshop, 16a Worcester Place, Oxford; telephone 0865 540443.

Craftsmen's choice

The Crafts Council celebrates its tenth birthday this week by opening a much enlarged gallery, an information centre with a slide index of the work of the 375 craftsmen approved by the council, and a coffee shop — the last no less important than the first if the council is to succeed in its aim to make British craftwork attractive to the widest possible audience.

Since it was formed in 1971, supported by government money, it has undoubtedly made an excellent job of fostering certain crafts and craftsmen — some more than others, it has been churlishly suggested — but if there have been grumbles in the past all must surely be forgiven on the strength of the opening exhibition, The Maker's Eye.

The 500 exhibits — well displayed, well lit, well explained — are the choice of 14 craftsmen whose selection represents a highly individual and diverse definition of craft. In some cases that individual definition is immediately apparent to the visitor — John Makepeace's "objects with some kind of inner strength", for instance, include Nicolas Pope's zigzag column in carved walnut, Ernest Barnsley's oak settle built in 1898 and Gerald Bennis's goblets in gold-lined white enamel, all with as distinct a relationship as a family with



Left "Flat jug" by Steven Newell, 1979, in lead glass blown into a steel mould. Selected by Alison Britton for The Maker's Eye exhibition at the Crafts Council in London.

Right Pyramid by Glenys Barton, 1972, in bone china with silk-screened graphics. Selected by Emmanuel Cooper.

Roman noses.

Erik de Graaff's selection of furniture, lamps and drawings presents a cohesive whole because they were chosen specifically to work together. Alison Britton concentrates on vessels which can be used, but which are primarily aesthetic — also a clear story. It is when some of the craftsmen choose items from outside their own disciplines that the reason for their choice is not immediately apparent. But whether or not every item merits its place, each is an interesting insight into the mind of the selector. If you are

interested in crafts you will find the beautifully produced catalogue worth buying even if you can't get to the exhibition. It has coloured illustrations of many of the exhibits and short essays on the purpose of craft by each of the 14 selectors and it costs £5.95 at the exhibition or £6.95 by post.

The new Crafts Council Gallery, at 12 Waterloo Place, SW1, will be officially opened by the Prince of Wales on February 2. The Maker's Eye exhibition is on now until March 28 — opening hours Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 10 am to 7 pm, Sunday 2 to 5 pm. Admission 50p.

For those who want to break the bottle habit

There is nothing quite so miserable as being so cold that you can't sleep. Electric blankets are relatively cheap to run — an overblanket can be run all night for a week for about 10p and an underblanket will warm the bed before you get into it for less than 5p for seven days.

Among the cheapest available at the moment are Northern blankets at Selfridges. The textile part is seconds, but the electrical bits are perfect — £11.50 underblankets, £16.95 over — double size only.

John Lewis have the usual Dreamland, Monogram and DG plus their own brand, Jonelle, which cost £12 single, £15 double for underblankets, £22 single, £26 double and £29 dual controlled overblankets. At all Partnership stores.

Barkers of Kensington and all branches of Army and Navy have a good selection of Dreamland and Monogram. Single underblankets are £11.95 and with four different heat settings are £15.95; double £17.50, three settings £20.95, or four settings with dual control £26.95. Overblankets are single £32.95, double £38.95, dual control double £42.95, single £32.95, kingsize £39.95 and king size with dual control £54.95.

In case you are worrying about the cost of running electrical equipment during these demanding weather, these are the running costs, according to the Electricity Council, of the major pieces of equipment based on the national average of 4.7p per unit.

Radiator or fan heater, 1kw	5p an hour
Immersion heater,* to heat family tank, 30rs, 9 units	42p
Immersion heater on economy seven — night rate, 9 units	16½p
Vacuum cleaner used every day for a week	5p
Automatic washing machine — one week's wash of 37lb of washing	45p
Tumble dryer — 8 to 11lb of heavy clothes	18p
Lightweight items 8-11lb	5p
Dishwasher — 140 pieces of china and cutlery	12p

*If your tank is really well insulated — not just one layer of domestic lagging, but at least 4in of insulation, you can leave the immersion heater on constantly without excess extravagance as you are only heating the amount of water drawn off, rather than the whole, cold tank, says the Electricity Council. The loss on a 36 gallon uninsulated tank is more than 100 units in a week (£4.70). With efficient insulation you can reduce the loss to about three units a day.

French food

For four days next month gourmets within reach of Richmond will be able to watch cookery demonstrations by the head chef of one of the most renowned cookery schools in France.

Fernand Chambrette, of La Varenne, who was assistant chef to Paul Bocuse in Paris before opening his own restaurant there, will be demonstrating at La Petite Cuisine School of Cooking, 50 Hill Rise, Richmond, in the mornings and evenings on February 23 and 25 and in the afternoons on February 24 and 26.

Tickets for each demonstration will be £8. For more details and times of sessions, telephone 01-940 7583.

Gardening/Roy Hay

Flowers by post

For most of my lifetime people bought their seeds by mail order from beautifully illustrated catalogues — some wit remarked that "Faith is not dead so long as we have coloured seed catalogues". Over the years came packeted seeds (on sale or return) in ironmongers, chemists, multiple stores and ultimately in garden centres. Some seed merchants with household names disappeared.

But now we hear that while shop sales of seeds have been static or slightly falling, catalogue sales have been holding up very well.

This I am glad to hear, because the choice of varieties in shops is very limited — understandably they stock the most popular, often very old varieties. So it is not surprising that the seed trade is looking to forms of packaging in the hope of stimulating demand for seeds.

Personally I wonder if these new presentations will sell more seeds — they may in some cases make the actual raising of seeds easier but as with all sophisticated packaging the product costs more.

We have seen many packs of pre-sown seeds come and go over the years, but now we have neat small plastic trays filled with a growing compost with only watering to start off germination in a warm greenhouse or on the windowsill of a warm room.

These we have found very effective.

Pelletted seeds of flowers and vegetables we have had for some years and I am surprised that they have not proved more popular. True they cost about a third more than ordinary seed but being coated with an inert clay that dissolves when the seeds are in the ground, they are so much easier to handle. They are large enough to be placed individually in a seed tray or in drills in the open and thus avoid waste through too thick sowing.

The latest offerings from Bees, of Chester, are "Seed Sticks". These look like outsized bookmatches and contain 60 "matches" or "sticks" of stiff card to which one or two seeds have been attached with a soluble gum. You push these sticks into the ground or in seed compost in a tray so that the seed is covered by a quarter of an inch of soil. The system is claimed to eliminate the pricking out of seedlings.

For example, you get 60 "sticks" for 44p of 10 week stocks mixed. Most seedsmen offer packets of these stocks containing around 200 seeds for 25p or thereabouts. The saving of time and labour may be worth the extra cost to busy people.

Another interesting trend in seed affairs is the appearance of mixed varieties of lettuce. The first of these I think was of lettuces and now several

firms offer packets of lettuce seed either normal or pelletted containing a mixture of cos and cabbage varieties that take different times to mature. Thus one may cut lettuces from the same row over a period of up to a month or more.

Three sowings starting with the first in March generally see us through to the autumn. I do not bother with any other lettuces for our family of two with the odd visitor. Mixed lettuce seeds are offered by Suttons, Thompson & Morgan and Dobies.

But if lettuce growing is to be taken more seriously it is worth studying the catalogues and trying new varieties resistant to disease. I think the idea of growing mixed varieties applies with equal force to radishes. Only Suttons and Thompson & Morgan, include among my seed catalogues mixed radishes, but I have grown them for years. I have pulled radishes over 20 to 30 days.

A newer concept is mixed Brussels sprout seeds (Thompson & Morgan). Five varieties are included in the packet — sufficient seed to produce about 80 plants, enough for any modest garden. They should give sprouts from October to April.

It will be interesting to learn in due course from the seed trade what effect the severe weather will have on the sale of vegetable seeds. In the past when winter frosts

and snow have decimated vegetable crops and prices have shot up, the demand by amateurs for vegetable seeds has increased dramatically. I expect it will do so again this year.

So if one wishes to play safe, which vegetables would be best to grow? First let us consider the household that has a deep freeze. Top of the list I would put runner beans. Next perhaps broad beans, and sweet corn. Carrots freeze well but one can always grow them, lift them and store them before severe weather sets in.

For those who have no freezer, obviously root vegetables, turnips, beet and swedes which can be lifted and stored are a good idea. To have some salad material as well as "chicons" for braising and a variety of cooking one can sow Chicory "Norman" as one would lettuce in early May and lift the roots in November. They may then be stored in sand outdoors or in a shed and brought into warmth to be forced in the dark as and when required.

The "chicons", that is the tight leaves, are cut when large enough and side leaves will grow from the stump to make excellent blanched salad.

With green vegetables like broccoli and cabbage we amateurs run the same weather risks as professional growers, but curly kale is probably the hardiest of the green winter vegetables.

Vegetables are already showing signs of the weather. The leeks I bought last weekend had either been frozen in the ground, or the lorry taking them to market had made a long stop in a blizzard. They still had ice in important little places and the green tops were already becoming slimy.

So assuming that the worst effects of the snow and floods have yet to hit green-grocers, it seems the right moment to reinstate old favourites like pea pudding which depend on vegetables which have been deliberately dried, not accidentally frozen.

Pea pudding has been made since the Middle Ages and is still traditionally served with boiled bacon or roast pork. Boiling it in a cloth was the original cooking method, but now it is more usually steamed in a covered basin or baked. This recipe produces a pudding which is just firm enough to turn out.

Pea pudding
Serves four
225g (8 oz) dried peas, whole or split
1 medium onion, roughly chopped
55g (2 oz) butter
1 large egg, beaten
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cover the peas with cold water and leave them to soak overnight.
Next day, drain the peas

and put them in a pan with cold water, bring to the boil, cover and simmer until the peas are tender. Drain well, then puree the peas and onions by pressing them through a sieve. Add the butter and egg and mix well.

Now season the mixture to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
Turn the pea puree into a well buttered pudding basin and cover it with buttered foil, tied on tightly. Set the basin in a large saucepan and pour in boiling water to come to half way up the sides of the basin. Cover the pan and simmer the pudding for about one hour, or until firm.

Green flageolet beans are the one storecupboard vegetable that might pass for fresh if one did not know that they are sold dried. They also come cooked, in tins. In France they are often served with roast lamb, but are equally good with beef or pork. They can be served quite plain, moistened with just a little butter or roasting juices, salt and pepper.

Flageolet beans with cream
Serves four to six
340 g (12 oz) dried flageolet beans
Unsalted stock or water
15 g (½ oz) butter
6 rashers smoked streaky bacon
1 large onion, finely chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Soak the beans in a pan of water for 12 hours, then drain them well. Melt the butter in a pan and fry the onion until it is tender. Return the beans and bacon to the pan and season the mixture to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

In a small bowl beat together the egg yolks and cream. Off the heat stir the cream into the bean mixture and mix well. Reheat, if necessary, but do not let the dish boil now or the eggs will curdle. Serve immediately.

Good, long grain rice like Indian basmati, is an interesting and delicious flavour of its own. Cooked simply with a little butter, and water of course, it is a perfect accompaniment to delicately-flavoured stews

and casseroles as well as curries. Lemon flavoured rice is particularly good, goes well with roast chicken, veal or pork, and with fish.

Lemon rice
Serves four to six
340g (12 oz) basmati rice
30g (1 oz) clarified or fresh butter
4 whole cardamom pods
1 teaspoon salt
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
Freshly ground black pepper

Wash the rice in cold water and drain it well. Melt the butter in a heavy pan which has a tightly fitting lid. Add the rice and stir it over a low heat, mixing until each grain is coated with butter. Add 350 ml (12 fl oz) cold water, the lemon juice and the salt and bring to the boil. Lower the heat, stir once, and clamp on the lid. Cook the rice for about 10 minutes, or until all the water has absorbed and each grain is tender and separate.

If all the water absorbs before the rice is tender, add more water by sprinkling it over the top of the rice with your hand. Cover and continue cooking until it is ready. When the rice is cooked sprinkle the grated lemon zest over it and fold it in, lifting up the rice at the same time. Season with freshly ground black pepper and serve.

Good, long grain rice like Indian basmati, is an interesting and delicious flavour of its own. Cooked simply with a little butter, and water of course, it is a perfect accompaniment to delicately-flavoured stews

and casseroles as well as curries. Lemon flavoured rice is particularly good, goes well with roast chicken, veal or pork, and with fish.

Personal investment pages 16 & 17

Business News

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 16 1982

Royal Bank bids report page 18

New hope after 12% rate of inflation

By Frances Williams

The annual rate of inflation stood last month after four consecutive increases, boosting Government hopes that it will soon resume a downward course.

The Retail Prices Index rose by 12 per cent in the 12 months to December, the same as November, to stand at 308.8 (January 1974=100). This compares with 19.9 per cent in July.

Prices in December rose by 0.6 per cent, rather less than many analysts were expecting.

A third of the rise was the result of higher food prices, while the jump in the mortgage rate to 15 per cent for most remaining building society borrowers contributed a further third. The rest was due to the increase in the television licence fee from £34 to £46 for a colour set, and higher gas prices and rail fares.

Offsetting these rises was a small reduction in petrol prices and the refund on electricity bills, together with a slight fall in the prices of clothing and footwear and household durable goods such as furniture.

Prices charged by state industries, which rose by 30 per cent during 1980 and prevented a stumbling block to achieving a single figure inflation, are now rising roughly in line with prices in the rest of the economy.

Over the year to December 1981 nationalized industry prices rose by 11.1 per cent.

Economists in the Treasury are now hopeful that the inflation rate will stabilise at about its present level before falling gently later this year. The official forecast published by the Chancellor's economic statement last month predicted that inflation would ease to 10 per cent by the end of the year.

But this forecast depends crucially on continuing pay moderation and the pound remaining close to its present level.

Though the sharp fall in the pound during 1981 seems to have had less impact on inflation than was at first feared, partly because importers preferred to reduce their comfortable profit margins rather than put up prices, any further drop could put unwelcome upward pressure on prices.

In addition, prices at home may be vulnerable to attempts by traders to improve their profit margins as output slowly picks up.

January's inflation figures will be affected by a 14p increase in the cost of a pint of milk, equivalent to 1/4 of a percentage point on the retail price index, and higher prices for beef, gas, and telephones. Some councils' supplementary rates demands will also be included, offset by the removal of the G.L.C.'s supplementary rate following the House of Lords decision on London transport fares.

Britain's annual inflation rate remains higher than the average for industrialized countries of 10.1 per cent.

Table, page 17

ACC takeover confused by Heron Bid

By Philip Robinson and Paul Maidment

Mr Robert Holmes a Court's £36m takeover bid for Associated Communications Corporation was thrown into confusion last night as his agreement to buy Lord Grade's ACC shares became the subject of legal action, and Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron Corporation, said he was pressing ahead with a £42.5m counter bid.

Mr Ronson is said to have tried to make an offer last Monday but finally put one on the table at 2am on Wednesday.

A statement from ACC, now headed by Mr Holmes, said that the takeover bid for ACC was still on foot, but that the Heron offer had been rejected.

In his legal action Mr Jack Gill, the dismissed ACC managing director, has lodged a writ with the High Court seeking to restrain Lord Grade and four other ACC directors from selling their shares before a vote is taken on his £560,000 golden handshake payment.

A special shareholders' meeting to consider this resolution was adjourned again yesterday, pending court action by the Post Office pension fund to stop the payout.

Mr Gill is also seeking an

order restraining Mr Holmes a Court from becoming the legal owner of any shares sold to him by five ACC directors.

Named in the writ are Lord Grade, Isaac Louis Benjamin, Norman Richard Collins, Louis Sydney Michael, Sir Leo Piatytsky and Mr Holmes a Court.

In addition Mr Gill is seeking an order to make the five ACC directors whom he claims signed a memo on November 30, about the takeover, to be contained in those memos, to vote in favour of his £560,000 compensation payment.

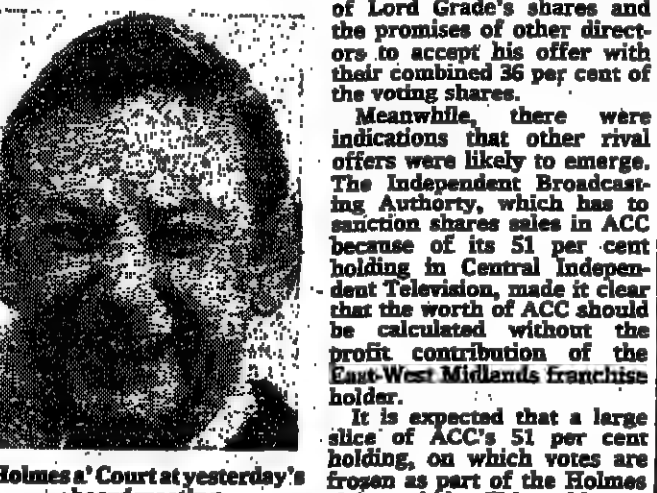
ACC's advisors confirmed last night that Lord Grade's £7.56 per cent voting and 0.5 per cent non-voting shares had been sold to Mr Holmes a Court's Bell Group through which he is making the bid.

Heron said last night it remains seriously interested in pursuing its bid and is actively considering its position, paying particular attention to the implications of the share transactions detailed in Mr Holmes a Court's formal bid statement. These included the sale of Lord Grade's shares and the promises of other directors to accept his offer with their combined 36 per cent of the voting shares.

Meanwhile, there were indications that other rival offers were likely to emerge. The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which has to sanction shares sales in ACC because of its 51 per cent holding in Central Independent Television, made it clear that the work of ACC should be calculated without the profit contribution of the East-West Midlands franchise holder.

It is expected that a large slice of ACC's 51 per cent holding, on which votes are frozen as part of the Holmes a Court bid, will be sold.

Mr Ronson is said to have tried to make an offer last Monday but finally put one on the table at 2am on Wednesday.



Holmes a Court at yesterday's board meeting.

United Biscuits takes over Terrys of York

By Peter Wainwright

Joseph Terry of York, the confectioners is once again changing hands. Colgate Palmolive which bought the company from Trusthouse Forte in 1977 in a deal said to have been worth about £10m, is going to United Biscuits for £24.5m cash.

United valued by the stock market at £348m is buying a group with a turnover (in the year to last September) of £42m, and with pretax profits of £2.7m. The book value of its assets is £20.5m.

Terry's is one of Britain's quality chocolate makers, but its market share is however only about 4 per cent.

Colgate, which at one time diversified into sporting goods lavished money on Terry's but is now pulling in its horns.

United get a company which takes it at a stroke into the confectionery field. It has so far been on the fringe with Benetton chocolate biscuits, and it is a natural step to go into confectionery with an established distribution network Terry's salesforce will now handle United's biscuits.

For United Biscuits, however it is almost bound to mean a dilution of earnings in the first year of acquisition, because United's cash could earn more in interest than it is getting from Terry in profits.

United has seen its own profits soar from £6m to nearly £48m in 10 years, and in the six months to mid July last they increased 50 per cent. Profits this year will probably be more than £60m.

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Italy faces 3m jobless

Italy's unemployment will rise from the present 2 million to 3 million by 1984, according to a three-year economic forecast by Confindustria, the confederation of private industry.

This year should see zero growth, and a drop in inflation from 18.7 per cent to 16.7 per cent, falling to 15.8 and 13.2 per cent in 1983 and 1984, the forecast said.

Slight recovery by sterling

Sterling recovered a little of the ground lost earlier this week in rather uncertain trading on international currency markets yesterday. It reached a high of nearly \$1.88 at one stage as the dollar fell back on profit-taking and publication of economic indicators showing United States still in the grip of recession. But the dollar rebounded later ahead of yesterday's United States money supply figures — expected to show a big jump — trimming sterling's gains.

The pound closed in London up just 55 points at \$1.8685. But it held on to gains against Continental currencies and its trade-weighted index improved 0.5 to 90.6.

Steel move

British Steel and other European producers are considering halting all shipments of steel to the United States to avoid the risk of penalties from anti-dumping charges American companies are expected to bring.



Ronson: never gone entirely public

Ronson's hat again in the City ring

By Margaret Pagano

Mr Gerald Ronson, the Heron Group chief now in the ACC fray has emerged as one of the shrewdest, and richest, survivors of the property boom when he unprinted his style through his extrovert character, love for fast cars and frenetic work schedules leaving the office before 7 pm to socialise, he once said, was a sacrifice.

He used to drive in his Lamborghini to the garage forecourt to supervise personally control of the Heron petrol pump chain he launched in 1965.

All his garages were in key sites within 35 miles of London as part of a policy of buying high property value shares. All were within his personal reach. Soon he was regarded as a businessman who upset business rules, turning Heron into one of Britain's largest private empires. He conducts business in a highly unconventional, but always centralised way.

His business interests have always been followed with almost indecent haste and he has been keen to define his company as one of property in the public eye. Last Wednesday Ronson again threw his business into the ring when he said he had £100m to spend on buying a quoted United Kingdom company sometime this year.

By 11 pm that night he is believed to have turned up at the doors of Associated Communications Corporation offering himself before the board as the new owner of the group — until then led by Lord Grade.

Earlier that day Ronson, 42, had denied any intention or interest to buy into the media world.

If I wanted prestige projects I would certainly want a company in the media and have no desire for that sort of publicity, Heron's acquisition will be an area closely related to Heron's present interests.

Mr Ronson, who has described himself as a capitalist with a social conscience, added: "I consider the Royal Society of Medicine development project we

are now working on to be one of worth and prestige."

But he did take part in an abortive consortium bid for Channel 4's breakfast television last year which, says, came second in the rounds.

A close colleague said last night: "He is an autocrat and once he has got the hunch he follows it. But he has been known to spit it out at the last minute if he feels that it is not right."

Mr Ronson commands a vast spread of interests with an investment property portfolio valued at £125m and total property assets in excess of £140m which are scattered through Western Europe's leading cities.

In Paris he owns a 35 per cent interest in the highly valuable old Figaro building, valued in 1978 at £40m. Planning permission has just been obtained for a £25m development in Barcelona and in United Kingdom Heron has interests in many large cities and is working on 15 different projects.

Heron is also one of the country's largest independent petrol chains. Motor distribution is put through the Heron Motor Group and yesterday announced it had turned back to profits after a period of difficult trading.

With 5,000 employees in the United Kingdom, Heron also controls the Suski franchise, owns Ingersoll, the watch makers, and the National Insurance and Guarantee Corporation. Late last year Heron sold its Esaygas company, Calor Gas's main competitor, for an undisclosed sum.

Mr Ronson has never had any problem in raising money from the City. Last year he secured a £75m unsecured loan from Barclays Bank, a £50m unsecured loan in December and has around £20m cash on deposit.

Just 24 years ago, he worked with his father, Henry, running a medium-sized furniture making business where he started at 15. By the mid-1960s he effectively ran the company with his father keeping a watching brief.

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Pressure on Japan hardens as talks open

From Bailey Morris, Key Biscayne, Florida, Jan 15.

Leaders of the main Western trading nations struggled through had to arrive in Florida today for talks described as crucial to the world trading system's future.

This is the first time since last summer's Ottawa economic summit that ministers from Europe, the United States, Japan and Canada have met to discuss growing trade differences.

Despite assurances to the contrary, it appears certain that Japan's rising trade surplus with the rest of the world will dominate. The sensitive topic of controlling trade in high technology goods, the subject of Nato talks in Brussels next week, will also be discussed.

The United States now estimates that Japan's surplus will jump \$5,000m (£2,688m) this year to \$25,000m.

This is just one of several problems clouding the world trade picture. As Mr William Brock, the American trade representative, said in his opening speech: "The world now faces a triple threat of inflation, unemployment, and high interest rates which strain political structures."

Both the Europeans and the Americans have been pressing the Japanese to change their trade policies. This is the message they will put forcefully in private sessions.

So far, the Japanese response has been to urge both Europe and the United States to avoid protectionist policies. They say the West's problems are not Japan's fault, but that of outdated, uncompetitive industries.

In Tokyo, before leaving for the conference, Mr Shintaro Abe, Japan's Minister of International Trade, said he could not believe the West would restrain Japanese exports.

Still, even in Japan, there is considerable pressure on the Government to change its policies, a member of the Japanese delegation said.

He added that last month, for example, Mr Tasuo Komoto, a prominent Cabinet member, had said Japan's present account surplus is leading the world to the brink of war.

He warned businessmen that if Japan does not ease these pressures it must bear part of the blame for a potentially fatal protectionist actions in Europe and the United States.

This sentiment was echoed privately by members of the European and American delegations before the first private session. One American said Congress, reacting to mounting unemployment and a continuing flood of Japanese cars and electronics exports, is becoming increasingly hostile.

He added: "We have at least two anti-Japanese Bills pending in Congress and unless something positive happens, I don't think we can hold all of them back."

There was disappointment all round, except at the Bank of England, at the Monopolies Commission's majority decision to veto the £500m rival bids for Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday.

Mr John Burke, Royal Bank's chief executive, said he was disappointed that the merger with Standard Chartered had been disallowed.

He said: "An opportunity to bring together our domestic operations and an international bank has been missed. Now we must roll up our sleeves and get on with the job."

"But it is not a total disaster. We can survive and prosper. Now we must press ahead with our contingency development plan. Williams and Glyn's (part of the Royal Bank Group) has been expanding in England and the Royal Bank has been opening offices in the United States."

However, Mr Burke would not comment on suggestions that Royal Bank has advanced plans to buy a medium-sized bank in the United States.

Mr Michael Sandberg, chairman of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, source of the other bid, said: "It remains our belief that by linking with Royal Bank we could have made a major contribution to increasing competition in British banking."

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State, for Trade refers both bids to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

June 25: Hearings before the Commission begin.

Sept 3-4: Commission visits Edinburgh to take evidence from the Scottish lobbies strongly opposed to any takeover of Royal Bank.

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Dec 22: Monopolies Commission delivers its report on the two bids to Mr Biffen.

Jan 14: Mr Biffen tells Cabinet colleagues of his decision on the Monopolies Commission recommendations.

DIARY OF EVENTS

1980: Royal Bank Group decides to seek a partner with a strong overseas presence, following takeover approaches from largest shareholder Lloyds Bank with 16.4 per cent.

March 17, 1981: Standard Chartered makes agreed £300m offer for Royal with the approval of the Bank of England. Lloyds Bank swiftly launches bid for Lloyds & Scottish gaining control guarantees on an immediate Royal Bank takeover in return for being able to buy Royal's 39.3 per cent stake in the finance house.

April 7: Hongkong and Shanghai launches its £500m counterbid for Royal following several meetings with the Bank of England. According to Hongkong and Shanghai it was never forbidden to bid; according to Bank of England, its disapproval was made clear.

April 23: Standard Chartered returns with a new agreed offer which matches the Hongkong and Shanghai's terms.

May 1: Following pressure from both inside and outside Parliament and increasing signs of the Bank of England's opposition to the Hongkong and Shanghai bid, State aid for lame-duck industries should be subject to tough criteria, while industry must take the initiative to promote "sunrise industries".

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday: "In a keynote speech on industry policy the Stockton lecture in the London Business School — Sir Terence said: "The restructuring of British industry will be carried out on a much sounder basis if it is done at company level than if we wait for some grand government plan."

But there were areas where the Government could aid casualties, such as core industries, to give them breathing space for reequipping and reorganisation. There should be a time-limit for aid, he said.

De Lorean moves to secure £36m loan

By Rupert Morris and Christopher Thomas

De Lorean car company representatives will meet the Export Credits Guarantee Department on Monday to discuss its request for guarantees on an immediate loan of £26m followed by a further £10m in March.

The company which has won Government grants of £80m for the building of its Belfast factory and which employs 2,500 people, was non-committal about the nature of the meeting.

The department is understood to be worried about De Lorean's financial position and is anxious that a third party to invest money should be found. So far, the company has been unsuccessful in its efforts to find a backer.

Yesterday De Lorean announced that it was returning to a five-day week next week, having been reduced to three-day working for this week.

The reason for this shortened working week are far from clear. The company blamed a shortage of spare parts because of the Sealink strike hitting the supply route from Stranraer, but hinted that there were other reasons such as a decline in American demand for the cars, and the failure to secure export credit guarantees.

Mr John De Lorean, said in New York yesterday that he would travel to Northern Ireland on Monday night or Tuesday morning. Mr Don

OFT probes Cook deal

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating Thomas Cook's proposed takeover of Rankin Kuhn, the travel agency subsidiary of British Petroleum, to decide whether there should be a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The deal is believed to be worth £1.5m with Rankin Kuhn a £500,000 company with a dozen retail outlets including one in West Germany. It appears to leave Rankin Kuhn well below the £15m assets value which is one benchmark for investigation under monopoly legislation.

What the OFT is expected to concentrate on is how far the deal might give Thomas Cook 25 per cent or more of a market, another benchmark on monopoly investigation. Bank accounts for only about 10 per cent of the package holiday tour market and 260 travel agency outlets throughout Britain.

But a group within Rankin Kuhn — where a management buy-out proposal to BP was turned down — has claimed in a letter to the OFT that taking in Rankin Kuhn would push Cook's total annual turnover to about 26 per cent.

Meat group redundancies

About 400 workers are to lose their jobs at the Ipswich and Calne, Wiltshire, factories of F.M.C. Harris, which is part of the F.M.C. meat group.

Mr Bill Pagworth, manufacturing director, said most of the losses would be at the Ipswich factory.

Royal Bank 'will go on expanding despite bid veto'

By Our Financial Staff

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Stock Markets

FT Index 531.6 up 4.4
FT GB 62.37 up 0.13
FT All Share 308.22
up 1.65
Bargains 14,886

Sterling

\$1.8685 up 0.55 pts
Index 90.6 up 0.5

Dollar

Index 109.0 down 0.3
DM 2.3122 up 0.25

Gold

\$376.50 up 50 cents

Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/2%
3 mth Euro 14 1/4-15 1/4%
6 mth Euro 15 1/2-16 1/2%

PRICE CHANGES

Ass Comm 'A' 13p to 67p
Blythvoores 25p to 481p
Chloride 4p to 30p
Control Secs 5p to 65p
Daily Mail Tst 12p to 386p
De Lorean Tst 12p to 345p
De Lorean Tst 25p to 330p
Eisberg Gold 12p to 117p
Glaxo 12p to 454p
Leslie 13p to 117p
Manson Fin 6p to 58p
Seatrout 65p to 427p
Streeters 2p to 22p
UBM Group 5p to 57p
Venterspost 25p to 387p

Rises

Anstrad 10p to 200p
BCC 5p to 146p
Copper Niell 2p to 58 1/2p
Change Wares 3p to 25p
Collins K 5p to 85p
Dunsm Oil 10p to 480p
First Castle 4p to 84p
Geevor Tin 5p to 135p
Hawkinson 'A' 5p to 605p
Hawkinson 'B' 5p to 251p
Howard Mach 2p to 23p
Racal 5p to 385p
Rea Bros 10p to 82p
R. Bank S'land 16p to 125p
Wigfil H 19p to 121p

Home Insurance

Where householders are uninsurable against theft

Standing upstairs in her bedroom, Yvonne Gilbert heard an intruder moving around in her kitchen. Fortunately there was a telephone extension in the bedroom and she was able to telephone the police. But when they turned up some 15 minutes later, the burglar had taken flight and gone.

This was the third break-in that Yvonne Gilbert and David Owen had suffered in the last five years. They share a flat in Huskisson Street in the Toxteth area of Liverpool, scene of last summer's riots.

The thieves took an almost new video recorder worth around £600 and although the break-in was worrying, the couple were insured by the Pru. This happened early in October last year, and the couple's claim was accepted but when the insurance cover came up for renewal on the 18th of last month, Yvonne and David were horrified to discover that the Pru was not prepared to give them any cover for theft — only for fire.

The Pru was the only company to take out insurance in this area and have found it impossible to get cover with any other company, said Miss Gilbert. "I went into the main office

in Liverpool to talk to the supervisor but she just said they were not prepared to offer theft cover."

"Most friends who live locally have policies with the Pru and some of them have had more break-ins than us. It will be interesting to see what the Pru decides to do when these come up for renewal."

A friend, Lynden Robson who lives nearby says, "I was forced out. I was burgled twice in three months and I have now moved from a ground floor flat to an attic flat". But my policy was renewed in December although I had to write to the company to remind them that it came up for renewal."

Yvonne Gilbert believes that Toxteth is one of several areas which are being "red-lined" by the insurance companies. "This is a no-go area now" she says.

The Pru disputes that "redlining" is operating in the area, and in fairness to the Pru they have continued to insure homeowners in the area longer than most. "It was made perfectly clear that this is not a no-go area," commented Norman King of the Pru. "We look at individual risks as they arise."

premises and he came to the conclusion that further break-ins were likely and that theft cover should not be offered. "I have explained to the insured that the risk was virtually uninsurable", he said in his report. "The area can only be described as very poor from the theft and vandalism point of view".

However, he made no mention of the fact that all three break-ins had been via the back door, nor did he make any recommendations about security of this door, though the couple have had it strengthened and wired glass put into the panels.



Yvonne Gilbert and David Owen at the back door of their flat in Toxteth

Our complaints system is to look into areas of difference which arise between the policyholder and the company," commented a BIA spokesman.

Clearly no single insurance company can carry all the theft cover for such high risk areas. But perhaps what is needed is a system of referral, similar to that operated by the building

societies, whereby if a person cannot raise a loan from a building society they go to their local authority who will allocate a building society and refer the borrower back.

If homeowners who could not obtain cover were "swept out" in a similar way among all the insurers, presumably the higher risk would be bearable. "We are

not in a position to do this" says the BIA.

"A pre-requisite of this would be that there are large numbers of people who have this problem," says the BIA.

In the meantime householders in high risk areas will either have to go uninsured, or like Yvonne Gilbert's friend — move out.

Lorna Bourke

Watch for gains in currencies

Currency gains are likely to be this year's big investment news, just as they were in 1981. Volatile interest rates and currency movements are once again being forecast by the economic pundits. As far as the United Kingdom's major funds are concerned the yen and the Deutsche mark are the favoured targets.

In market jargon the description of trading conditions at the end of December was that "there are a lot of burnt fingers as far as the dollar is concerned". That was because interest rates in New York started to move up in December, rather unexpectedly, and are still rising. So, even though gnomes, such as Hubert, Eschwege of the Swiss Bank Corporation, are saying "do not sell the United States" cautious investors are wary of becoming involved in what may be a short-term rise.

In theory, British investors might think that they will be operating from a stable base in 1982. The Bank of England has made no secret of the fact that it has an exchange rate target. At the moment it is keeping the pound at a set average against the currencies of Britain's major trading partners. It keeps an index, and the target on this is about 90 — the rate it has been for much of this year.

The problem is that as soon as foreign exchange markets start to disagree with a central bank, they will follow their view with cash. So if they think the central bank's

rate is too cheap, they will queue up to buy. Under this sort of pressure central banks usually have to change their target.

If the miners go on strike, then traders and investors all around the world will want to sell sterling.

Neither the Japanese nor the Germans want their currencies to rise. They can export more goods if these are priced in an undervalued currency, and thus look cheaper than those of their competitors. For that reason the top banking officials of both countries have been going around talking their currencies down.

Inflation in both countries is at a very low rate. In Japan it is likely to be 3% per cent at the end of this year and in Germany about 5 per cent. Both countries are also exporting vast amounts of cash, and other factors make them highly attractive to the big funds.

So, while they may not shoot up in the short term, if United States interest rates burst through the 20 per cent level again, both currencies are being recommended for capital gain over the course of the year.

Rates against the pound yesterday were 419.75 for the yen and 4.325 for the Deutsche mark. Interest rates on two month bank deposits are low — only about 3 per cent on the yen and 8-9 per cent on the Deutsche mark, depending on the size of the deposit.

Sally White

The Times-Money Programme Unit Trust Competition

Entries for The Times Money Programme Unit Trust Competition, launched last week in Family Finance and on BBC TV's Money Programme, have started to roll in. If you take it seriously, it will undoubtedly pay to leave your choice until the last few days as it will then be possible to see how the trusts have performed during the first three weeks of January.

But do not leave it too late since entries received after the closing date of January 30 will be disqualified.

We will be revealing our experts' — the unit trust advisers' — choices at the end of the month.

The uninitiated could do worse than back the unit trust managers' choices.

Allied Hambro are tipping

Electrical and Industrial Trust, Japan, and Smaller Companies, from their own stable. Barclays Unicorn reckons its best performer will be the Greater Pacific Trust, which has opted for its Capital Growth Fund. Britannia is putting its faith in its American Smaller Companies Fund, Britannia Far East, National High Income, and Britannia Smaller Companies. While Save & Prosper recommends its Exploration Fund, New Technology, and S.E. Asia Growth Fund.

Target has gone for its Income and Special Situations funds, while Tyndall prefers its Gilt Income, International Earnings, and London Wall Extra Income Growth funds. Schroders likes the look of its Capital

Australia, and General funds and M & G believes its American Recovery, Australian Midland and General, Recovery and Magnum trusts are the ones to watch in 1982. Bravest of all is Hill Samuel which tips its Gilt and Fixed Interest Fund, and European Fund, along with the 1981 top performer Hill Samuel Far Eastern Trust. It will be something of a coup if Hill Samuel manages to pull it off two years running.

Prizes are £100 worth of unit trusts of your choice for the winner in each category with £50 and £25 for the runners up. There will be a prize for the lunch and the winners will be appearing on BBC's Money Programme to explain how they made their choice. Rules and entry form are below.

Readers of The Times have two more chances to compete — the entry form is printed today and next Saturday only. So far over 700 entries have been received.

Those who have entered so far have been almost exclusively in the "general" category. The professional advisers are obviously holding off until the last moment since they will have access to the performance figures for January and there is some evidence to suggest that those funds which perform well at the beginning of the year, tend to do well over the full twelve month period.

But the field is wide open. Talking to unit trust experts it is plain that there is little agreement on which funds to back.

We usually publish unit trust performance statistics on a sector basis — financial trusts, income trusts and so on. To help readers who are entering the unit trust competition make their choice, the figures this month will not be split into sectors, and it should be easier to see which trusts are doing well — the last time the entry form will be published.

The tables show the value on January 4, 1982, of £100 invested 12 months ago (column A) and two years ago (column B) net income reinvested and based on offer to price. Figures supplied by Planned Savings Magazine, 150-151 Caledonian Road, London N1 9RD.

Hill Samuel Far East	155.7	A-Hambro Equity Inc	115.5140.5
Arbutnot	145.2203.2	Nelstar International	115.6
Arbutnot Tokyo	143.4216.8	Stewart Brit Cap	115.4146.2
S&P Japan Growth	140.9187.6	Lloyds Small Cos & R	115.4
Arbutnot Smaller Cos	138.4180.7	A-Hambro Elec & Ind	115.4150.5
Henderson Japan	138.3197.6	Pearl Trust	115.2141.1
Gartmore Japan	137.2	Discretionary	115.1146.9
Target Pacific	137.0189.6	Hill Samuel Inc	115.1137.7
Midland Drayton Japan	134.8217.3	S&P/Totter Bond	115.1140.5
Chieftrain Far Eastern	134.8193.0	M&G/Trustee	115.0139.8
G.T. Japan & General	133.1179.7	Tower Inc & Growth	114.9138.8
Mercury General	131.7275.4	Britannia Inc & Growth	114.9128.1
Bishopsgate Internat	131.0768.9	Fidelity Amer Sp Sit	114.9
Henderson Sm Co	130.4182.2	Equity & Law Gen	114.8197.1
Nat West Smaller Cos	130.1149.7	Nat West Financial	114.7151.7
Perpetual Income	129.8150.9	NPI Growth	114.6144.2
Arbutnot Foreign	128.3159.8	Midland Drayton Hi Yd	114.4127.8
S&P/Far East	128.2158.5	Target Inc & Growth	114.4127.8
Gartmore/Endeavour	128.0155.8	Equity & Law Gen	114.4144.9
M&G Japan	127.9156.4	Britannia Japan Perf	114.4174.4
Henderson/Europe	127.8129.7	Anscher Inc Mly	114.3127.4
Gr Winchester Oseas	127.8172.0	Abbey Capital	114.3148.6
Mayflower Internat	127.2155.3	Chieftrain Capital	114.3148.6
Gartmore/Ldn&Brusel	126.9143.4	Hill Samuel/RI Yield	114.2125.1
Barclaybank 500	126.2139.9	Nelstar Hi Inc	114.2104.9
Target Special Sit	125.8195.3	Gartmore Inc	114.2136.3
T&S Income	125.8155.2	Barclaybank Ex Inc	114.0129.7
Henderson Inc & Gth	125.4147.7	Equity & Law Gen	114.0147.7
Franklington Amer	125.0178.5	L&C Income	114.0134.4
Pelican Units	124.8157.8	Bridge Amer & Gen	114.0172.6
Fidelity Max Inc Eqty	124.6	S&P/High Yield	113.9135.2
Henderson/Nth America	124.5183.1	Gartmore High Inc	113.8129.7
A-Hambro USA Eqty	124.2194.0	T&S/Scottish	113.7159.6
Franklington	123.9143.7	Target/Invest Trst	113.7179.3
Tyndall/Nth Amer's n	123.8152.1	Gr Far East & Gen	113.7217.3
MLA Trust	123.5201.9	A-Hambro High Yield	113.6114.7
Abbey Worldwde Bud	123.2120.1	Abbey Genera	113.6140.6
Henderson Extra Inc	123.4132.9	Intel Smaller Cos	113.5141.6
Franklington Inc Growth	123.4180.4	Nat West Extra Inc	113.5117.1
Britannia Am Sm Co	123.2179.4	Bridge Internat Rec	113.5159.4
Franklington US Trn	122.7153.1	Abbey Internat Rec	113.4141.4
S&P South East Asia	122.6203.0	Gover Stockhld	113.4162.0
London Wall/Internat	122.3143.5	Leo Capital	113.3167.8
A-Hambro Gr & E	122.1163.8	Henderson/Pac Sm Co	113.3189.7
Tyndall/Far East	122.0	A-Hambro Accum	113.2151.0
Chieftrain Far East	121.8151.2	Kleinwort Benson NY	113.1142.8
M&G/Conv Income	121.3135.6	Intel Amer Tech	113.1164.1
Barclaybank Recov	121.0140.0	Kleinwort Benson S C	113.0129.9
Great Winchester	121.0130.2	Uster/Growth	112.9136.7
Barclaybank Inc	120.9141.6	Rowan Securities	112.8154.6
Henderson Sm Co Dy	120.8153.9	Chieftrain Amer Gr	112.8153.9
Norwich Union Gp Tr	120.8150.0	Hill Samuel/Dollar	112.8135.2
Brown Shipley Inc	120.7156.9	Family Fund	112.7130.9
New Court Smaller Co	120.7156.9	M&G Sec Gen	112.7151.4
A-Hambro Sec of Am	120.7156.9	Equity & Law Gen	112.7151.4
Pearl Growth	120.7156.9	Gartmore/Barrington	112.5153.9
Henderson/RI Inc	120.1136.4	Murray European	112.5100.1
Nat West Income	120.0151.7	New Court Inc	112.4126.9
Schroder Income	119.9148.6	T&S General	112.3148.4
Royal Trust Income	119.9131.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.3148.4
Abbey Income	119.8132.7	G & A Units	112.3147.0
Schroder General	119.8159.5	Target/High Yield	112.3123.4
HK Small Companies	119.8126.3	Tyndall/Inter Earn	112.3150.4
Quilter/Quadrant Int	119.7167.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.2144.9
Fidelity American	119.7167.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.2144.9
British Life Dividend	119.7129.1	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Stewart American Fd	119.7165.0	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Arbutnot Giants	119.6146.8	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Reliance Select Income	119.6160.0	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Crescent Inter	119.5148.0	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
M&G/American	119.5148.0	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Hill Samuel/Spec Sit	119.4173.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Alben Income	119.4173.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Capel Income	119.2127.0	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Franklington Ex Inc	119.2	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
M&G/High Income	119.129.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
A-Hambro Pacific	119.1280.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
S&P/Scotish	119.1280.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Britannia Assets	119.0136.6	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
A-Hambro Rec Sit	119.0119.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
M&G/Mid-Gen	119.0119.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Frederic Jones	118.9138.8	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Proflig High Yld	118.9146.2	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Brown Shipley Grth	118.8167.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Gartmore Extra Inc	118.6125.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Target Financial	118.5155.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Barclaybank Trust	118.4148.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Quilter/Quadrant Recvry	118.4	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Reliance Opportunity	118.3149.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
London Wall/High Inc	118.0115.6	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Royal Trust Capital	117.8155.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Frederic Jones	117.7143.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Fidelity Growth & Inc	117.7154.2	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Bishopsgate Prog	117.7144.6	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Target Income	117.7125.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Reliance Select Income	117.5138.4	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Quilter/Quadrant Gen	117.1152.4	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
A-Hambro 2nd Sm Cos	117.1145.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
M&G/Recovery	116.9130.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
M&G/Dividend	116.9130.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Henderson Am SCS	116.9179.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Tyndall Income	116.8127.0	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Pearl Income	116.7133.8	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Tyndall/Scotish Inc	116.6126.8	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Intel Pacific	116.6180.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Nelstar Smaller Cos	116.5155.9	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Lloyds Life Equity	116.4125.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Crescent High Inc	116.4125.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
A-Hambro High Dist	116.4144.4	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Lloyds Income	116.4151.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
T&G/Wickmoor Divi	116.4127.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
M&G/Extra Yld	116.4127.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Barclaybank Invest	116.3154.4	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Alben Income	116.3132.8	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
T&G/Barbican	116.2136.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Minster	116.2136.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Chieftrain Hill	116.2136.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Lloyds Inter Tech	116.2136.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Henderson Financial	116.1194.3	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Schroder Small Cos	116.1181.7	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Lloyds Income	116.0139.4	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Alben Income	115.9138.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Capel Capital	115.7148.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2
Britannia Nth Amer	115.7125.5	Gr Far East & Gen	112.1115.2

Grieson/Grantchestr	108.5138.5
London Wall/Extra Inc	108.4103.7
S&P/European Gr	108.4103.6
Abbey American Gr	108.4136.9
S&P/Scotish	108.2146.8
Lloyds North Amer	108.2
S&P/Select Inter	108.1159.2
M&G/Compound Gr	108.0149.1
Hill Samuel/Extra Inc	108.0138.9
T&G/Vanguard Ri Yld	108.0120.6
Schroder Capital	107.9157.6
Baring Bros Stratton	107.9144.6
British Life Balanced	107.9139.5
Confederation Gr Un	107.9139.5
A-Hambro Inter	107.9139.1
Britannia Recovery	107.9143.0
M&G Smaller Cos	107.9140.3
Unifit General	107.9139.9
Britannia Far East	107.9162.5
Capel N American	107.6119.9
Chieftrain I & G	107.5117.2
Britannia Amer Sp SUs	107.4148.4
HK Private	107.3151.9
G.T. Income	107.2142.1
Mutual Income	107.1122.9
G.T. U.S. & General	107.1158.6
Midland Drayton O'Sea	107.1152.5
S&P/Scotish	107.1152.5
HK Extra Income	107.0122.6
Vanguard Trustee	107.0133.0
London Wall Cap Grth	106.9127.6
Fidelity Internat	106.9125.9
Crescent Amer Inc	106.8167.8
Chieftrain High Inc	106.7114.1
Target Portfolio Inv	106.7145.5
New Court Equity	106.7128.7
S&P/UK Equity	106.6148.5
Mutual/Bline Cap	106.5122.9
Archway Fund	106.5144.0
Buckmaster Marlbro	106.4146.7
Barclaybank Ameria	106.3128.9
Manulife Growth	106.2134.5
Norridge	106.2120.4
HK Income	106.1110.8
Gartmore Inace Age	106.1139.5
Britannia Extra Inc	106.0109.9
Mercury Internat	106.0142.7
Key Equity and Gen	105.9137.8
HK Far East & Gen	105.9152.1
Britannia Prop Shes	105.8148.4
Abbey Internat Rec	105.7153.6
Carr Setw Income	105.4126.7
T&G/Vanguard Grth	105.2141.4
James Finlay Inv Tr	105.1148.6
Chieftrain High Inc	105.1148.6
Barclaybank Fin	104.9153.2
Target Commodity	104.9145.0
Arbutnot Extra Inc	104.8130.5
Chieftrain Pref & Gilt	104.8117.0
S&P/Commnd Share	104.8117.0
Schroder Europe	104.8117.0
Target/Professional	104.7151.0
Martin Currie	104.7136.9
Britannia Profession	104.5136.9
M&G/Conv Growth	

In brief

Deposit scheme launched

For investors who want the certainty of fixed interest rates for a fixed period, UDT has announced a new "five/fifty" deposit scheme for sums from £5,000 to £50,000. The fixed periods to choose from are six months, one year and two years plus a day. The rate of interest offered will reflect conditions in the money market: current rates being offered are six months — 15%, a year — 14%, two years plus a day — 14%.

Interest will be paid by cheque at maturity for six-month deposits and half-yearly for longer periods. Deposits must be placed by cheque and any amount between £5,000 and £50,000 can be placed in each period. Current investors in UDT's Average Rate Scheme will get a preferential interest rate should they wish to transfer their funds.

Portfolio care

To look after his or her investments, the average expatriate really needs a grasp of international markets, currencies, exchange controls (where they apply) and taxation, as well as the time to manage a portfolio of securities.

London Stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers aims to offer an international market service and comprehensive tax advisory service for expatriates, to take the weight off their shoulders. Minimum portfolio which CCM will accept is £5,000 which will be invested in specialist offshore funds. But you can start with an initial investment of only £1,000 provided you are prepared to make further investments of £1,000 until the £5,000 minimum is reached.

Unit-linked plan

Covermaster is a unit-linked whole life plan providing lump sum benefits on death, launched by Abbey Life. It offers flexibility to vary cover as circumstances change and can be adapted to individual needs at any time after the first two years. It can be increased every five years in line with inflation and guarantees insurability for policy holders. Premiums can start low and escalate by 10% each year for the first five years of the plan or they can be kept the same throughout. This plan also offers a bonus for higher contributions.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14 1/2%
Barclays	14 1/2%
BCCI	14 1/2%
Consolidated Crds.	14 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	14 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	14 1/2%
Midland Bank	14 1/2%
Nat Westminster	14 1/2%
TSB	14 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	14 1/2%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% over £50,000 13 1/2%



Christies auction to start wine season

The new season of wine auctions gets under way on Tuesday with a sale of inexpensive wines at Christie's, South Kensington. This is rapidly followed by Sotheby's fine wine sale on January 20, with Bonhams coming later in the month on the 27th with a sale of classified growth claret, fine burgundy, cognac and vintage port. On the 28th Christie's have a sale of Bordeaux wines at their King Street auction rooms.

Looking back over 1981, wine in the saleroom generally saw rising prices and increased turnover, but there are signs of some weakness ahead for 1982.

All three London wine auctioneers with specialist departments had increased sales. Vintage claret has risen most during last year. Although the price of young Bordeaux may ease, the general claret market remains firm. This is particularly so for such vintages as 1975, 1976 and 1977, which will be sold in regular lots at auction, 1971, 1970, 1966 and 1961.

Duncan McEuen of Christie's considers 1978 claret "quite a winner", 1976 "hesitant", 1975 "overshadowed" and 1974 and 1977 "weak". He says there is fair demand for 1969 and 1973 (about £55 a case for a 2nd growth), 1971, he says, is enjoying "an Indian summer" with St Emilion and Pomerol particularly popular, 1970 was

holding up well, 1967 firm and 1966 moving from strength to strength as the natural successor to the 1961. The much publicised 1961 vintage continues to appreciate with Sotheby's securing a new record for Ch Lafite on December 9 with 1990 per dozen bottles (which cost about £33 in 1963).

Vintage Port is "healthily stable, not static", according to Master of Wine, Michael Broadbent (of Christie's). He points to a year like 1955 which cost under £1 per bottle in 1960. Five years later the same vintage was £1.50, retail; it now costs around £190 per case at auction.

Of Port vintages, the prospects are mixed. David Molyneux-Berry, MW, of Sotheby's compares the 1977 to 1963; its quality makes it appealing for long term speculation. He says 1975 is poor at auction, realising as low as £40 per case for Warre in October. The 1970s are falling in price — reflecting in part the large quantity declared — and will continue to drop, according to Robert Churchward of Bonhams.

The 1960s are picking up slowly from about £75-£85 12 months ago to £115 plus. The 1960 vintage is static, overshadowed by 1966. The price of Burgundy has fallen and will continue to, despite the jump of 34.3 per cent on average in the

Conal Gregory

Benefit cuts begin to bite

The new year is upon us and brings with it the gloomy news of lower benefits for people who fall sick or become unemployed. This is because of the ending of the earnings related supplement (ERS) paid with the basic benefit.

Earnings related supplement, as its name implies, was linked to recent earnings. The higher the earnings, the more supplement paid. The maximum was £14 a week, and it was meant to act as a financial cushion in times of sickness or unemployment. The supplement lasted for up to six months before it was paid on top of the appropriate benefit.

But from now on the supplement is completely abolished. Anyone who falls sick or loses a job will not be able to claim it.

There are, however, several exceptions. First, those who claim the supplement before the cut-off date will be able to keep it even after January until their entitlement expires.

Secondly, if anyone falls sick or becomes unemployed after Monday (the supplement's ending date) and this is within eight weeks of earlier sickness or unemployment for which the supplement was paid, then they are eligible for it again.

However, the Government has ruled that ERS will be paid to anyone after June 30, 1982.

The phasing out of the supplement began in January, 1981. Then, had the rules not been changed, the top rate would have gone up to something around £19 a week, with a further rise in prospect from this month.

The 1981 maximum payment dropped compared with the 1980 level, and the payments to those few who do receive it in 1982 will be kept at this year's rate.

The benefits with which ERS can be paid are sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, maternity allowance and industrial injury benefit. New widows also receive it, but from the new year only newly-widowed women whose husbands died before January 3, 1982, will qualify.

Ian McDonald

Your money market best buys

Banks
Current accounts — no interest. Deposit accounts — Midland 12% per cent, Lloyds, NatWest and Barclays 12% per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for term. Fixed-term deposits — 1, 3 and 6 months, 14% per cent rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds
Simon 7-day fund, 14.62 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 15% per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14.5 per cent; Simon dollar fund, 12 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simon (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent, first £70 of interest tax free. Investment Account — 15 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

National Savings index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in February 1977, £187.81 including 4 per cent bonus.

National Savings certificates
— 23rd issue
Return totally free of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts — 9.75 per cent. Term shares — 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 pc and 2 pc over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 pc over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individuals building societies may quote different

rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers. Local authority yearlings
Bonds
12-month fixed rate investments, interest 15% pc basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.
Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Best offers: 1 year, Kingston-upon-Hull 13 1/4 pc; 2-3 years, Swanssea, 14 1/4 pc; 4 years, Knowsley 14 1/4 pc, 5-10 West Derby 15 pc.
Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-628 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.
Finance for industry
Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax 3-4 years, 13% pc; 5-6 years, 13 1/2 pc; 7 years, 13 1/2 pc; 8-9 years, 14 pc; 10 years, 14 1/2 pc. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-528 7822).
Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of £10,000 or more: 1 month, 14% pc; 3 months, 14 1/2 pc; 6 months, 15 pc; 12 months, 15 pc.
Foreign currency deposits*
Interest paid without deduction of tax.

US dollar	10 1/2 pc	10 1/2 pc
Yen	2 1/2 pc	2 1/2 pc
Mark	7 1/2 pc	7 1/2 pc
French Franc	11 1/2 pc	11 1/2 pc
Swiss Franc	4 1/2 pc	4 1/2 pc

* Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

Firm end to week

Late confirmation that the Monopolies Commission had rejected bids from both the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered Bank for Royal Bank of Scotland proved the main feature in a day which saw selective gains in spite of the threat of an increase in the oil dispute and uncertainty over the miners' ballot.

Royal Bank of Scotland sustained further losses after a disastrous week, slipping a further 16p to 125p, but both the defeated bidders improved, with Hongkong and Shanghai up 4p to 139p and Standard Chartered rising 8p to 68p.

The FT index closed up 4.4 at 531.6 after opening unchanged at 10 am. Electricals were steadier after a week which has seen disappointing figures from Rascal and Thorn EMI. The sector has at last lost the glamorous rating of the last two years according to one trader, but was only 2p down at 388p after reaching 382p in early trading as a line of 300,000 went through the market, while Cable & Wireless improved 6p to 222p, a new high, and GEC closed up at 806p.

Gilt-edged with gains of 1/4 across the board in thin trade with dealers in a cautious mood ahead of the miners' ballot and the US money supply figures. Leading industrialists showed a leading improvement, with Rascal up 1p to 316p, partly on the strength of recent favourable comment by brokers James Capel, BAT Industries at 358p, Glaxo at 450p and Reed at 245p shared similar gains, while other leaders improved 2p to 5p.

Stock Markets

In the aftermath of the Lord Grade affair and the rival bids from Mr Holmes & Court's Bell Group and Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Group, Associated Communications Corporation was restored to listings and rose to 65p against the pre-announcement level of 53p to end the day at 67p as the Heron counter bid was awaited.

Other TV issues improved in sympathy, with figures due next week, rising 4p to 115p.

Losses of £1.8m knocked 19p from Henry Wigfall, which ended at 121p, after 115p, but an increased final dividend offset yesterday's lower profit. Daily Mail and General Trust 22p to 380p. Associated Newspapers also improved after disappointing figures, rising 5p to 178p.

Continuing merger talk boosted food shares with favourites British Sugar up 5p to 386p, Ranks Hovis McDougall at 67 1/2p up 4p, amid rumours that Ralston Purina is preparing to make a bid and Unigate rising 1p to 115p, but W & A Beisford eased 3p to 120p on suggestions of a possible 150p offer for Unigate. This was later denied by Unigate which rose 1p to 115p.

British Home Stores jumped 7p to 123p on vague rumours of a bid. There have been reports, which were later denied, of a link with J. Sainsbury. Meanwhile, Habitat Motocare rallied 8p to 113p after recent weakness caused by the merger. Today was the first day of dealing in stock of the merged group, and over 6m shares changed hands.

Press comment supported

Johnson & Firth sells five small offshoots

Johnson & Firth Brown, the Sheffield-based steel and engineering group has sold five of its smaller companies to JFB International, a subsidiary of its 50 per cent owned US associate, JFB Holdings.

The five companies are Gordian Strapping, Endeavour, Everbright Fasteners, Hunter Wire Products and Greenings, a South African company.

Johnson's will receive cash of £4m and a further \$2.25m of convertible preference capital.

Cawdow trims loss

On arise in sales from £3.6m to £4.5m, Cawdow Industrial Holdings has trimmed its pre-tax loss from £549,000 to £415,000 for the half year to September 30.

The recession affected all divisions and many painful decisions have been taken. The stringent measures introduced have led to the reduction in trading loss and interest charges.

Diamond Stylus

Difficult trading conditions reported in the Diamond Stylus annual report in August continued for the half year to September 30. Turnover was £810,000 (against £865,000) and net losses rose from £50,000 to £119,000.

Elgin Diamond Products (Europe) suffered from the severely depressed engineering industry in the UK, but the board does see signs of a slight improvement and it hopes that this will continue.

RETAIL PRICES

Index numbers January 15 1974=100 for retail prices not seasonally adjusted, based by the Department of Employment yesterday.

	All items	Food	Non-food	Annual rate of increase in Jan 81
Oct	271.9	274.1	269.4	9.4
Nov	274.1	276.3	271.9	8.8
Dec	276.3	278.5	274.1	8.0
Jan 1981	278.5	280.7	276.3	7.1
Feb	280.7	282.9	278.5	6.2
Mar	282.9	285.1	280.7	10.2
Apr	285.1	287.3	282.9	15.1
May	287.3	289.5	285.1	14.7
June	289.5	291.7	287.3	14.7
July	291.7	293.9	289.5	14.5
Aug	293.9	296.1	291.7	14.7
Sept	296.1	298.3	293.9	12.5
Oct	298.3	300.5	296.1	12.5
Nov	300.5	302.7	298.3	9.0
Dec	302.7	304.9	300.5	9.0

Wigfall loss sparks bid rumours

By Drew Johnston

Shares in Henry Wigfall, the electrical and TV group, plunged 19p yesterday to 121p on news of a £1.8m loss and decision to pass the dividend for the half year to October. This set off a new round of speculation that a takeover bid could be in the offing. In 1978 Comes Radiovision Services just failed in its £4m bid for the company.

The loss was a turnaround on a profit of £63,000 last year. Interest payments were down from £1.48m to £1.18m and the depreciation charge rose from £5m to £5.4m. No tax was paid in the period.

Mr Gordon Hazzard, the recently appointed, non-executive chairman, said the loss had been partly caused

through financing — credit sales outside the group. In 1980 the company sold its hire purchase arm to Trinity Finance to relieve the level of borrowings at that time. Problems in external finance forced the group to link up with the Lloyds and Scottish finance group late last year, but according to Mr Hazzard, the expected increase in profitability from this has still to materialize.

Sales fell by £900,000 in the half year from £22.3m to £21.6m. The company's retailing problems are being tackled with the possible appointment of a marketing director to the board in the near future.

An across the board cost-cutting exercise to improve efficiency but without any further redundancies is planned, Mr Hazzard said.

"There are many pressures bearing upon us — not least of which are rent and rates — and it will take sometime to stabilize the business and then return it to an acceptable level of profitability," he said.

The boom in video recorders had made a contribution but the company faced the problem of shortage of supply, he said. The board was confident improvements could be made in reasonable time and they hoped to report some progress by the year end, he said.

Raybeck holds dividend as profits tumble

By Peter Wainwright

Raybeck, the fashion group which bought Bourns & Hollingsworth in 1979 and which trades under the Lord John, Lady at Lord John and Berkertex labels, is making money — just. In the 26 weeks to October 24 last sales fell from £44.73m to £42.9m, turning pre-tax profits of £1m into only £256,000.

It is understood that property profits are immaterial in the latest figure, as they were in the comparable ones. In the year to April 25, 1981, the pre-tax surplus slumped from £5.58m to £1.52m but

the figures included profits from property disposals of £1.09m against £420,000. The decision to maintain the interim dividend at 1.13p to 0.15p is not necessarily encouraging. Mr Ben Raven, the chairman, reports tough trading in the first half of the financial year but indications of business improvement. But though Christmas apparently went well everything changed abruptly on January 8 when the weather kept shoppers away.

Wall St

New York, Jan 14 — Stocks closed narrowly higher for the first time this week due to a combination of technical factors and some positive projections for the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 3.33 points at 842.28. Advances edged past declines by around 720 to 670 and volume slipped to some 43 million shares from 49.13 million yesterday.

	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16
Allied Chem	42 1/2	43 1/2	44 1/2	45 1/2
Allied Shores	28 1/2	29 1/2	30 1/2	31 1/2
Alcoa	32 1/2	33 1/2	34 1/2	35 1/2
Alcoa	32 1/2	33 1/2	34 1/2	35 1/2
Amalgamated	10 1/2	11 1/2	12 1/2	13 1/2
Amstar	28 1/2	29 1/2	30 1/2	31 1/2
Amstar	28 1/2	29 1/2	30 1/2	31 1/2
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 11. Dealings End Jan 22. \$ Contango Day, Jan 25. Settlement Day, Feb 1. ~~\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days~~

[illegible]

Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

9.05 *Swim*: second in the series, it's called *Novices* (7); 9.30 *Swap Shop*: Singing star Barry Manilow takes part in a Viewers' phone-in. Other guests: Barry Took; magician John Salisse; and actresses Alan Watts and Lindsay Macdonald; 12.15 *Grandstand*: The top-up, 12.20 *World Cup*: Focus: 12.55 *World Cup Skiing*, from Kitzbühel in Austria. We see the ladies' downhill; 1.05 *Skiing*: We see the men's downhill; 1.50 *International Rugby Union*: Scotland versus England, at Murrayfield; 3.30 *Tennis*: McEnroe versus Connors in the Volvo Grand Prix masters, from New York; 3.50 *Half-time*; 3.55 *Tennis* (continued). Coverage continues until 4.30.

BBC 2

10.10 *Open University*: Today's subjects are: 10.10 *Health Choices* (home cooking); 10.35 *Consumer Decisions* (putting your foot down); 11.00 *S 101* Preparatory Mathematics (algebra). *Open University* programmes end at 11.15, after which there is a closedown until the Saturday Cinema presentation; 2.50 *Film: Odette* (1950) Wartime drama about Odette Churchill, who worked with the French Resistance and was captured by the Germans and tortured by them. Anna Neagle plays Odette. Co-starring Trevor Howard.

ITV/LONDON

9.35 *Sesame Street*: with The Muppets; 9.55 *Thunderbirds*: a race against the Sun. Puppet adventure (7); 10.00 *Times*: the noisiest show for children ever devised; 12.15 *World of Sport*: The line-up, amended because of racing's cancellation, is: 12.20 *On the Ball* (report on the World Cup draw preparations); 12.45 *World Cup Skiing* (from Kitzbühel, Austria); 1.00 *Swimming* (Gainsville International, from Florida); 1.15 *News*; 1.20 *The* *ITV Four*: Greyhound racing from Harringey (the 2.08, 2.23, 2.38 and 2.52); 3.00 *American football* (the AFC/NFC Finals); 3.45 *Half-time football* news and reports.

RADIO 4

6.25 *Shipping forecast*.
6.30 *News*.
6.32 *Farming Today*.
6.50 *Youngs*.
7.00 *News*.
7.10 *Today's Papers*.
7.15 *On Your Farm*.
7.45 *Youngs*.
8.00 *News*.
8.10 *Today's Papers*.
8.15 *On Your Farm*.
8.20 *Breakfast* in Plymouth.
8.30 *News*.
10.15 *Talking Politics*.
10.40 *Daily Service*.
10.45 *Pick of the Week*.
11.00 *From our own Correspondent*.
12.00 *News*.
12.20 *Money Box*.
12.27 *The News Quiz*.
1.10 *Any Questions*.
2.00 *News*.
2.5 *Thirty-Minute Theatre*.
2.55 *Religious*.
2.55 *Medicine Now*.
3.30 *The* *ITV Four*: *A history in 35 parts* (1) Introduction: *The Deep Sea*.
4.15 *A Place to Dream*. Hugh Johnson talks about his 5-year-old garden, which he is making around his 17th-century Essex house.
4.30 *Does He Take Sugar?* A magazine of interest to disabled people.
5.0 *News*.
5.10 *Now to Now*.
5.15 *Oracles*.
5.20 *Ending*.
5.25 *Desert Island Discs*.
5.30 *Stop the Week* with Robert Robinson.
5.35 *Baker's Dozen*.
5.40 *Saturday-Night Theatre*: "High Fidelity" by Ken Blackburn.
10.00 *News*.

RADIO 3

7.55 *Weather*.
8.00 *News*.
8.05 *Audace*: *Rawshorne*, Borodin, William Hurlstone; records; 9.00 *News*.

RADIO 2

5.00 *Peter Marshall* with the *Saturday Early Show*; 8.00 *David Jacobs* with *Star Sounds*; 10.00 *Star Sounds* (new series) *Anna Murray* plays her favourite music; 11.00 *The* *Kenny Everett Show*; 11.15 *The* *Out of Your Body* (3) *The* *Giblets*. 1.30 *Sport* on 2. 7.00 *Beat the Record*. *Phone-in music quiz*; 7.30 *Big Band* *Social Club*; 7.45 *Radio 2* *Big Band*; 8.00 *Top of the Pops*; 8.15 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 8.30 *Top of the Pops*; 8.45 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 9.00 *Top of the Pops*; 9.15 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 9.30 *Top of the Pops*; 9.45 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 10.00 *Top of the Pops*; 10.15 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 10.30 *Top of the Pops*; 10.45 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 11.00 *Top of the Pops*; 11.15 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 11.30 *Top of the Pops*; 11.45 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 12.00 *Top of the Pops*; 12.15 *Music* *starring* *Wendy Williams*; 12.30 *Top of the Pops*; 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This effigy of an English king stares stonily across the land he once ruled (Photographs by George Hall).

Glory of Wells unveiled

The pensive king, with his weathered crown, and the faceless knight, watching through his stone vizor, represent the greatest hierarchy of medieval statuary in Britain. They are ranked across the broad west front of Wells Cathedral, which this year celebrates its eighth centenary. Of all our great cathedrals, it is the one that carries its majesty with the least strain and swagger. With its sequestered and swan-priested Close, its disconcertingly confluent Chapter House stairs, and elephantine cross-arches under the tower (inspired props put in when it showed signs of falling), Wells comes close to being the epitome of the wayward spirit of English Gothic. Its fabric is gradually emerging from a clutter of scaffolding after years of restoration in which the hundreds of fourteenth-century figures, many reduced to the consistency of wet sand, were drenched in a fortifying coat of lime putty, sour milk and stone dust. The work was done amid impassioned antiquarian controversies that would have reassured Trollope



An unidentified knight, enigmatic behind his vizor, immortalized on the cathedral facade.



The west front of Wells Cathedral, epitomizing the wayward spirit of English Gothic.

Letter from Moscow

Why jeans threaten sartorial socialism

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Jan 15

Clean-cut Communist vigilantes, dressed in sober suits, are being encouraged to swoop down on parks, discotheques, and factories, and round up all the young people dressed in Western jeans and T-shirts to persuade them that their sartorial style is threatening the fabric of socialism.

That is how two towns in the Ukraine are combating the craze for Western clothing now sweeping the country. The authorities increasingly regard the craze as an insidious attempt to subvert the hearts and minds of Soviet youth.

A doctor of history explained to readers of the youth newspaper, *Komsomol'skaya Pravda*, today that the raiding parties should be tactful, but should try to shame people into understanding the harm they did by wearing T-shirts decorated with Western slogans and symbols. Some of the slogans, he said, were openly hostile to socialism.

"It often happens that people simply don't understand the meaning of this or that symbol," he added. "The eradication of Western symbols is a serious matter. This is part of the education of young people to ideological maturity, political understanding, and artistic and aesthetic culture."

He called for an intensified war against the jeans culture. This phenomenon has led Russians to pay high prices on the black market for jeans (providing they bear the correct prestige Western label), and for T-shirts that declare the wearer to be a GI in the United States Army, a policeman from the Los Angeles Police Department, a Jesus-freak, a smoker of Marlboro cigarettes, a supporter of Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee, or any of the other unlikely causes that can be seen emblazoned across young Russians' chests nowadays.

A first step would be to tighten up control in the big cities and tourist resorts, where young people had contact with foreigners. Dr. Idyatov wrote, implying as every reader knows, that it is where the black market exchange has its origins. There should also be controls on people bringing Western clothes into the country.

He called for a propaganda campaign to change the outlook which automatically rejects Soviet-made clothes in favour of imported elegance. He agreed that Soviet clothes were often shoddy and lacked the required sparkle, and said that the Ministry of Light Industry had to do better.

However, he went on, the onus was on members of the *Komsomol*, the Soviet youth league, and on parents to stop the spread of Western crazes, and make people ashamed to go out in the streets in such clothes. Isolated attempts to curb the trend would not have much success by themselves, he admitted.

Today's declaration of war is much tougher than previous discussions of the issue, which have tended to suggest that the authorities should end the rogue by joining it, and manufacturing sweaters and T-shirts with such inspiring Soviet slogans as "Atomnash 80", referring to the giant Soviet plant now being constructed to build nuclear power stations.

In recent months ideologists and senior officials in the KGB security police have emphasized the dangers of Western pop culture and the attitudes it brings in its wake. Pop music, now extremely vigorous and well developed here, has also come in for official disapproval.

A letter in a weekly magazine today criticized Western dancing and rock music as decadent, saying it induced young people to perform movements "somewhat akin to morning gymnastics, which in most cases resemble the rituals of a witch doctor."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Exhibitions
Work by Vladimir Mayakovsky, Fruit Market Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh, 10 to 5.30.
Scottish Young Contemporaries, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, 10 to 5.
Paintings and drawings by Harold Gilman, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, 10 to 5.30.

The Great Seasons, paintings by Sheria Macleod, Middleborough Art Gallery, Linthorpe Road, Middleborough, 10 to 6.
Paintings and drawings of Penelope Hill towns by Trevor Stubley, Wakefield Art Gallery, Wentworth Terrace, Wakefield, 12.30 to 5.30.
Paper and plastic jewelry by Alison Baxter, Malcolm Parsons, Louise Slater and Vivien Winn, Arncliffe, Narrow Quay, Bristol, 11 to 8.

Photographs by Constantin Brancusi, Abbotsholme Arts Society, Rochester, 2 to 6.
Contemporary bird art by American, Canadian and British artists, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, 10 to 5.

Solution of Puzzle No 15,725

1. 10. 2. 10. 3. 10. 4. 10. 5. 10. 6. 10. 7. 10. 8. 10. 9. 10. 10. 10. 11. 10. 12. 10. 13. 10. 14. 10. 15. 10. 16. 10. 17. 10. 18. 10. 19. 10. 20. 10. 21. 10. 22. 10. 23. 10. 24. 10. 25. 10. 26. 10. 27. 10. 28. 10. 29. 10. 30. 10. 31. 10. 32. 10. 33. 10. 34. 10. 35. 10. 36. 10. 37. 10. 38. 10. 39. 10. 40. 10. 41. 10. 42. 10. 43. 10. 44. 10. 45. 10. 46. 10. 47. 10. 48. 10. 49. 10. 50. 10. 51. 10. 52. 10. 53. 10. 54. 10. 55. 10. 56. 10. 57. 10. 58. 10. 59. 10. 60. 10. 61. 10. 62. 10. 63. 10. 64. 10. 65. 10. 66. 10. 67. 10. 68. 10. 69. 10. 70. 10. 71. 10. 72. 10. 73. 10. 74. 10. 75. 10. 76. 10. 77. 10. 78. 10. 79. 10. 80. 10. 81. 10. 82. 10. 83. 10. 84. 10. 85. 10. 86. 10. 87. 10. 88. 10. 89. 10. 90. 10. 91. 10. 92. 10. 93. 10. 94. 10. 95. 10. 96. 10. 97. 10. 98. 10. 99. 10. 100. 10.

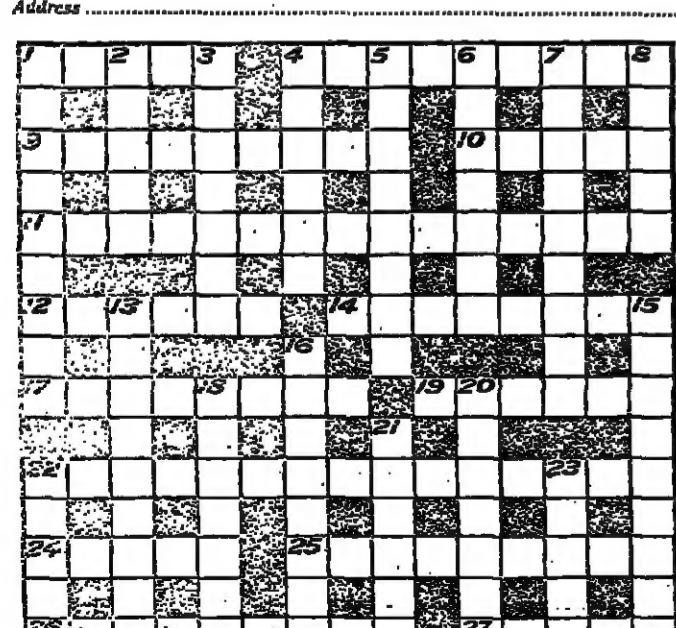
Solution of Puzzle No 15,730

1. 10. 2. 10. 3. 10. 4. 10. 5. 10. 6. 10. 7. 10. 8. 10. 9. 10. 10. 10. 11. 10. 12. 10. 13. 10. 14. 10. 15. 10. 16. 10. 17. 10. 18. 10. 19. 10. 20. 10. 21. 10. 22. 10. 23. 10. 24. 10. 25. 10. 26. 10. 27. 10. 28. 10. 29. 10. 30. 10. 31. 10. 32. 10. 33. 10. 34. 10. 35. 10. 36. 10. 37. 10. 38. 10. 39. 10. 40. 10. 41. 10. 42. 10. 43. 10. 44. 10. 45. 10. 46. 10. 47. 10. 48. 10. 49. 10. 50. 10. 51. 10. 52. 10. 53. 10. 54. 10. 55. 10. 56. 10. 57. 10. 58. 10. 59. 10. 60. 10. 61. 10. 62. 10. 63. 10. 64. 10. 65. 10. 66. 10. 67. 10. 68. 10. 69. 10. 70. 10. 71. 10. 72. 10. 73. 10. 74. 10. 75. 10. 76. 10. 77. 10. 78. 10. 79. 10. 80. 10. 81. 10. 82. 10. 83. 10. 84. 10. 85. 10. 86. 10. 87. 10. 88. 10. 89. 10. 90. 10. 91. 10. 92. 10. 93. 10. 94. 10. 95. 10. 96. 10. 97. 10. 98. 10. 99. 10. 100. 10.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,731

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday. The winner of last Saturday's competition is Mr A. Martin-Carpenter, 9 Musley Hill, Warr, Herts.

Name: _____
Address: _____



- ACROSS**
1. Bill of dishonest type — second of US President (5).
 2. Man after Tory's heart, following good result (9).
 3. Sort of character — Horatio said he was one (5, 4).
 4. Hiets town, could be tiresome round of May (5).
 5. Bork a room for Barbara Allen (11, 5, 2, 7).
 6. Finn's companion is a wood-cutter (6).
 7. Blow that made Mr. Jarndyce uncomfortable (4, 4).
 8. Recover given specific role as player (3, 5).
 9. Give rating a note to take between ships (6).
 10. His composition's proper art, ain't it? (8, 7).
 11. More than one creator of 12 (5).
 12. Chalk wine to have with ends of the poultry or game (3, 6).
 13. Term girl used for coin (9).
 14. One entered in order, say, to be a cook (5).
- DOWN**
1. Does better than French on critical positions (9).
 2. Will the dancer at end of act appear so tidy? (5).
 3. What Napier did half-heartedly, in without a deadline (4, 3).
 4. Why, we hear, Times may be in difficult position (6).
 5. Sex change for one such promoted on board? (8).
 6. Jones claiming to be this competitor (7).
 7. Hope yet for this art form? (5, 4).
 8. Just as normal as rain (5).
 9. Final problem finished here — flaw later rectified (9).
 10. Vessel at home among the breakers (9).
 11. Attainment of what's wanted on one-armed bandit? (8).
 12. Vegetable course's standard with 20 (7).
 13. With one sort of bowling, cricket side gets bonus (4, 3).
 14. As sea gets up, steam yacht goes round fleet (6).
 15. Use a club, or throw in diamond (5).
 16. Wine given to girl at end of week (5).

Weekend travel

For pre-recorded information on rail, air, road and sea travel, call Traveline: 01-246 5021.

Rail

Delays and cancellations to rail services throughout the country today, especially on Inter-City routes. Strike starts at midnight tonight, with run-down from 10 pm. No overnight trains tomorrow.

Roads

Scotland: hard packed snow on many roads in Highlands; A70 (Lanark to Edinburgh) closed. AA advises motorists to avoid A88, central route into Scotland; use A1 or A74.

Weather

London, SE, Central S, Eastern, Channel: mainly dry; wind S, moderate; max temp 4 to 6°C (39 to 43°F).

Lighting up time

Today: London 4.52 pm to 7.26 am. Bristol 4.54 pm to 7.28 am. Edinburgh 4.43 pm to 8.02 am. Newcastle 4.51 pm to 7.45 am. Plymouth 5.19 pm to 7.44 am.

Highest and lowest

Highest max temp: Isles of Scilly, 13°C (55°F). Lowest min temp: Llanfair, -5°C (23°F).

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of stability, where clouds, maximum elevation, and direction of moving. Asterisk denotes moving or passing.

The Pound

Australia \$ 1.74. Bank of England 1.74. Bank of France 1.74. Bank of Germany 1.74. Bank of Italy 1.74. Bank of Japan 1.74. Bank of Switzerland 1.74. Bank of the US 1.74.

In the garden

Many plants that have suffered from the frost and drying winds may not be dead and will break into new growth again in the spring — even as late as April or May.

The papers

The Shopworkers' Union's hostile reaction to Prince Charles's praise for Ugandan Asian shopkeepers is depressing but predictable, says the Daily Mail.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: The Times, Information Service, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9EZ.

Sporting fixtures

Rugby Union: Scotland v England, Edinburgh, 2. Football: League programme limited by weather (see page 20). Rugby League: Under-24 international Great Britain v France, Huddersley, 2.15.

Rackets

Amateur singles championship, at Queen's Club, Kensington, today and tomorrow. Davis' World professional championship, Stoke.

Weather

A southerly airstream will cover the country.

6 am to midnight

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Amateur singles championship, at Queen's Club, Kensington, today and tomorrow. Davis' World professional championship, Stoke.

Weather

A southerly airstream will cover the country.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, Eastern, Channel: mainly dry; wind S, moderate; max temp 4 to 6°C (39 to 43°F).

Lighting up time

Today: London 4.52 pm to 7.26 am. Bristol 4.54 pm to 7.28 am. Edinburgh 4.43 pm to 8.02 am. Newcastle 4.51 pm to 7.45 am. Plymouth 5.19 pm to 7.44 am.

Highest and lowest

Highest max temp: Isles of Scilly, 13°C (55°F). Lowest min temp: Llanfair, -5°C (23°F).

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of stability, where clouds, maximum elevation, and direction of moving. Asterisk denotes moving or passing.

The Pound

Australia \$ 1.74. Bank of England 1.74. Bank of France 1.74. Bank of Germany 1.74. Bank of Italy 1.74. Bank of Japan 1.74. Bank of Switzerland 1.74. Bank of the US 1.74.

In the garden

Many plants that have suffered from the frost and drying winds may not be dead and will break into new growth again in the spring — even as late as April or May.

The papers

The Shopworkers' Union's hostile reaction to Prince Charles's praise for Ugandan Asian shopkeepers is depressing but predictable, says the Daily Mail.

Our address

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Abroad

Algeria: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81.